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Near East & South Asia

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Regional Trade Talks To Be Held in Taba 8 Feb

NC2401141495 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Jan 24 (AFP)—Jordan, Israel, Egypt are to join the United States and the Palestinians for February talks on boosting regional trade following the signing of several peace accords, a Jordanian official said Tuesday [24 January].

The five-way ministerial level talks will be held on February 8 in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba, he added.

"The planned meeting will discuss the prospects of setting up a regional council for trade and investment" in the post-peace era, he told AFP, requesting anonymity.

Trade and economy ministers from the five countries will also prepare the groundwork for a forthcoming international economic forum due to be held in Amman in the spring.

"An overall assessment of the outcome of the Casablanca economic summit would also figure high in the agenda," he added.

In a declaration after a Middle East economic summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in November world leaders said they would aim to build the foundations of a regional economic community, leading to the free flow of goods, capital and labour.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Officials Discuss Decreasing Armies

TA2501132095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the meeting between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff in Washington last month, Israel proposed discussing a decrease in the size of the two armies within the framework of a peace agreement. This was stated by political sources in Jerusalem yesterday.

In the meeting, the sides discussed a series of questions, such as how to prevent border incidents and infiltrations; how to prepare for the prevention of surprise attacks by either of the two sides; and whether it is possible to discuss a decrease in the size of the two armies.

Jerusalem and Washington sources suspect that Syria has in fact suspended the peace talks with Israel and is now demanding substantial Israeli concessions in exchange for resuming the talks. Syria's ambassador in Washington has been absent from the capital for more than a month, thus preventing the resumption of the "ambassador talks" between himself and Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

Paper Links Settlement Issue, 'Real Peace'

MM2501153195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Peace or Settlements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Natanya incident again confirms that there can be no real peace without an effective halt to the settlement process.

The fact that the crop that "peace" in Palestine has yielded since the Oslo agreement was signed in September 1993 has so far been about 300 people killed—two thirds of them Palestinians—and hundreds wounded, is a phenomenon which calls for another quick and deep look at the Israeli concept of peace in Palestine.

It was nice of the Rabin government to announce, after the Natanya incident, that it was still committed to the continuation of peace negotiations, but it would be nicer if it could explain what is meant by such peace. Now that the call for the continuation of the peace process has become a boring routine occurence after every action and reaction in Israel and the occupied territories, what is urgently needed is for Israel to explain what peace it wants in Palestine and, beyond that, in the Middle East.

It is needless to repeat that real peace in Palestine must still be the "peace of peoples" not the "peace of treaties," and it is needless to repeat that the only way to the peace of peoples is the "peace of territory." The peace of territory is purely an Israeli responsibility considering that its bulldozers are daily burying peace in its war of relentless snatching of Palestinian land.

In the final analysis, territory is the core of the conflict in Palestine. The political significance of the Natanya incident perhaps lies in the fact that it coincided with the Israeli Cabinet meeting devoted to the issue of settlements in particular.

In that perspective, the Natanya incident is a reminder to Rabin's government that the choice it has to make is: Peace or settlements.

It may be useful to recall that this fundamental equation in the entire Middle East peace process was behind former U.S. President George Bush's call on Yitzhaq Shamir's Likud government to freeze the building of settlements in order to convince the Arabs of Israel's serious interest in achieving a fair and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

It is regrettable that Rabin's Labor government is trying to ignore that equation and still claim continuation of the peace process.

It may be difficult to find agreements more neglectful of the fundamental issues of the conflict than the Oslo agreements regarded in the Washington declaration as the basis of a Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

Day after day it is becoming clearer to Rabin's government that events in the Palestinian-Israeli arena have begun to overtake the Oslo agreements, and it would be much wiser to agree to defer Israeli settlement in Palestinian territory until the beginning of talks on the final status of the West Bank.

A few days ago, after his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Rabin made a remark which indicated that he understood the core of the problem impeding the peace process when he said that the Israelis were concerned about "terrorism" and the Palestinians were concerned about "settlement."

Although Rabin did not go as far as to point to a causal link between settlement and what Israel calls "terrorism," what is required now is perhaps a return in the peace negotiations to the core and essence of the problem: the territory and, consequently, the people of that territory—if, that is, the Israeli Government wants a viable peace that would at least stand in the way of the settlers' bulldozers.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid: No Place for Israel in Arab League

NC2501171595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1619 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that any talk about Israel's joining the Arab League is not serious and belongs in the wastebasket.

In remarks today, the secretary general said that the Arab League Charter refers to close inter-Arab ties, an Arab identity, and inter-Arab understanding that one can be proud of. He pointed out that nothing in this concept shows that Israel can be included.

'Abd-al-Majid added: If Israel joins the Arab League, I hope I will not be the secretary general when it happens.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Commission on Missionary Activities Meets

Suharto Speech Cited

BK2601035695 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Indonesian Government fully supports the view held by several Islamic social organizations that link missionary activities with development programs. Speaking when he opened the ninth meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization Commission on Missionary Activities at Jakarta's State Palace this morning, President Suharto said the Indonesian people, especially Indonesian Muslims, are making efforts to carry out the so-called development missionary activities. Commenting on the challenges and opportunities in missionary work, the president said they must be well planned to cope with future challenges and opportunities.

[Begin Suharto recording] Islamic missionary activities should be carried out to make Muslims realize the dangers of poverty, to strengthen solidarity and social commitment, promote work ethics, develop an appreciation of science and technology, maintain their physical fitness and endurance, and effectively use funds raised by charity. In propagating Islam, we must show the peaceful nature of Islam. Coercion or violent means in propagating religion is not an Islamic trait. God has laid down guidelines in propagating Islam, namely through gentle means and understanding. [end recording]

Speaking earlier, Religious Affairs Minister Tarmizi Taher said Islamic missionary work is related to education. Also, it is not only confined to giving sermons, but also include efforts to develop human resources.

Missionary Strategy Discussed

BK2601115095 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 26 Jan 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS—The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] has expressed its appreciation for the effort undertaken by President Suharto and the Indonesian Government to solve the Muslim separatist problem in the southern Philippines. The ICO Missionary Commission concluded its two-day ninth conference in Jakarta last night by expressing its appreciation to President Suharto and the Indonesian Government for their effort to solve the Muslim problem in the southern Philippines.

The ICO Missionary Commission meeting was opened by President Suharto at the State Palace on Tuesday [24 January]. About 200 delegates representing 39 countries, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, participated in the conference at the Borobodur Hotel.

The conference convened by discussing the draft missionary strategy for the year 2000. The missionary strategy, drafted by the ICO's Committee of Experts, was previously discussed at the seventh and eighth Missionary Commission conferences.

Opening the conference, President Suharto expressed his hope that the missionary strategy would meet the needs of the new era, which is characterized by an open global economy. Similarly, the Islamic missionary movement must project Islam's peaceful image.

Minister for Religious Affairs Tarmizi Taher said Indonesia takes a keen interest in the agreement on a missionary strategy. Islamic missionaries should study the situation and conditions in certain regions. Speaking to reporters after the closing of the conference, Tarmizi Taher said: "They need to study the social, cultural, economic, and political conditions of the regions they infuse. It would be better if they come from the same region."

The minister added that missionary work should be carried out through direct personal meetings; it should not just be concentrated on the masses. Both techniques can be implemented once the missionaries have acquired knowledge about conditions in the region.

In addition, the meeting agreed to upgrade coordination and cooperation among Islamic organizations and institutions. Coordination and cooperation should not be confined to ICO member countries, but should be open to nonmember countries with Muslim populations.

Other agreements reached during the meeting included a recommendation to increase support for the Muslim community's struggle in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechnya. On seeking a settlement to the Chechnya crisis, the meeting recommended the dispatch of a fact finding team under the supervision of the ICO secretary general.

The conference also expressed its concern to the Japanese Government and people over the suffering faced by the Japanese community in Kobe following the recent earthquake disaster. A telegram expressing this sympathy was recently sent to Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

Indonesia's Dr. Anwar Haryono chaired the closing ceremony. Propositions from various participants, including the Palestinian ambassador to Indonesia, were carried forward to be discussed during upcoming meetings.

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*Friendly Muslim-Western Relations Called No Deviation

95AE0015A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Dec 94 p 6

[Commentary by Basil al-Jisr: "Principles for Ending the Confrontation Between Muslims and the West"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Gaining sympathy with the West does not mean inevitable deviation from Islamic rights and principles, as some people believe or allege.**

There is no doubt that future Islamic generations will know more than the generations of the 20th century, who were swept up in numerous ideological and political trends, the importance of establishing the Islamic Conference Organization and the major positive role of Saudi Arabia, from the time it was founded, and the special joint role undertaken by the Moroccan ruler through this Organization, especially as relates to Islamic relations with the West.

That is because there are a number of phenomena and indications that the Islamic world or the Islamic countries, or "Islam," as the Western media call the peoples of the Islamic faith, is, or are, in a state of confrontation with the European or American West, or are ready to enter into a violent confrontation with it. It is a situation that calls for profound study and treatment, for more than one reason, as was the case at the recent Islamic conference in Casablanca.

The Conference did not get into the precise details or deep analyses that would have helped reveal and treat all the causes of the present conflicts among Islamic countries and peoples, or the one breaking out in the West, as separate countries or a group of countries or cultures. Yet it touched upon several important points that underlie the conflicts and misunderstandings that generate tension and confrontation. There are three major points: 1. The noninterference of states in the internal affairs of other countries, solving disputes and conflicts by peaceful means, and respect for international law and international legitimacy; 2. Safeguarding the Islamic heritage and spreading the teachings of Islam throughout the world, within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of other states and cooperation among them while helping to cultivate understanding and tolerance among peoples and faiths; 3. And to this end, we must make prominent the true and honorable image of Islam; the essence of its eternal Law; and the enlightened march of Islamic thought throughout the ages, the opposite of extremism and fanaticism; and the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, as it departs from the teachings of the Islamic faith (without infringing on the right to resist Israeli occupation).

The media has focused most intensely on the issue of the dispute over the future of Jerusalem or the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict, or other political questions or Arab conflicts. That is no surprise; the role of the media is, at times, to cover "events," especially in politics, and specifically when the event is a conflict rather than an agreement. But these three "positions" contained in the final communique of the Casablanca summit were the most important "event," and an intellectual, ideological, and political phenomenon, by virtue of which they respected and set forth a solution and an end to most of the conflicts occurring within Islamic countries, or among these countries, or between them and the West—even, we may say, between them and Israel (on the condition that Israel observe the same principles).

Naturally, applying and implementing the principles is not as easy as enunciating them. Nor have organizations, countries, or governments the authority and ability to transform laws and principles into deeds and realities. Giving the secretary general of the Conference the responsibility for follow-up and implementation is no more than charging the secretary general of the United Nations, for example, with implementing the resolutions of the Security Council. And it may be more difficult. But the publication of these principles is a very "important thing," because the state of the Islamic world, the relations between its countries, the conflicts raging within them or among them—especially the West's view of the Islamic world, given the violence and extremism of some conflicts—do actually threaten the peace of a large part of the world, in addition to threatening Islamic states and societies.

However, in order to be able to implement these principles, or to best implement them, there must be explanations or "interpretations" for applying them, for they are, at first glance, not devoid of the comprehensiveness of general principles, unclear features and details, or at times, of controversial contradictions. For there is no objection or disagreement on the principle of condemning terrorism, extremism, and fanaticism. But where is the actual line between terrorism and resistance against terrorism? In the case of the Palestinians, for example, is the "international legitimacy" represented by the Palestinian Authority stemming from the Oslo accord, in the right, or is Hamas, the Islamic Resistance? Another example is the question of solidarity among Islamic peoples and Muslims in the world, which mandates help and support be given to every oppressed or threatened Muslim in the world. It is inarguable. But how is it possible, in practical terms, to reconcile this with the principle of "noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries"? Or how to reconcile it, in the same fashion, with spreading Islam and the Islamic principles, teachings, and traditions demanded of Muslims living in the West, given the Conference statement on "respecting their sovereignty"—meaning their laws, which could conflict with, at times, or, more precisely, not be entirely suited to, the vital principles or fundamentals of Islam? Even regarding the provision stipulating "making prominent the true face of Islam" in the world, the task is not an easy one to put into practice, because there is a great difference beween the Islamic and Western cultures. It is not possible, or perhaps not easy, to explain Islamic principles to the Western public, which is confused between Christianity and materialist or existentialist philosophies, in a persuasive way, without stirring up reactions in some societies, or among some Islamic authorities. Or, as one Islamic scholar has said, "It is not admissable, in gaining the friendship or sympathy of the Western peoples for our political causes, to depart or deviate from the bases, principles, or teachings of our faith."

Yes, it is a difficult and exacting mission, which requires the application of principles announced in the Casablanca Conference, but it is a mission that must be undertaken, and indeed it must succeed, as the Islamic world's relations with the West—indeed, the world—are conditional upon its success. Even more important, or of greater priority, is that fate of the existing conflicts between the Islamic (and, of course, Arab) countries or within its societies.

Thus all eyes turn to two institutions discussed in the Conference: the "establishment of an Islamic Supreme Court of Justice" to settle disputes among Islamic countries on one hand, and the "establishment of a Supreme Commission on Interpretation [*ijtihad*] and Legal Opinion [*fatwa*]." These would be authorities dealing with issues of interpretation and application of the above-mentioned principles and the challenges in life and law that confront Musmlims in today's world, especially those living in non-Islamic countries, especially when there is, today, more than one "national" Islamic authority that is loyal to a specific country, or of a regional or sectarian nature. Here, also, there are many obstacles facing these projects, which do not need explaining. But proposals such as these would not have been made prominent had not their proponents—chiefly the Moroccan ruler, King Hassan II—realized, very palpably, how ominous the multiplicity of interpreting authorities is in the Islamic world, and the relation and effect of this multiplicity is to the basic concepts of the faith, such as the concept of jihad, for example, and the repercussions attributed, or attributable to it. These would be domestic conflicts in some Islamic countries, and the relations between countries and peoples, even between Muslim persons and the world, and the times.

Many media in the world have pointed out that a number of "Arab issues" were absent from the Casablanca Conference. In fact, that is not surprising. The study of some issues, without the consent of the relevant countries, is not customary in international conferences. But there is a remark or two to be made on the relation or role, central or not, of the Arab world in the Islamic world. Today the Arabs make up no more than a fourth or fifth of the world's Muslim population, and no more than half the number of Islamic countries. Yet Islam represents the most profound and significant receptacle of civilization and culture, of the existence of Arab culture. It also represents Arabism, the Arabic language, Arab-Islamic history in the ages of conquest and the early Islamic era, as well as in the growth of sects, interpretation, and religious schools, and a basic, even organic part of the Islamic presence or existence in the world today. When was the Islamic world not affected by this Arab part when it was weak or enduring conflict or disunion, to a greater degree than some might have supposed, or wanted?

It is true that there is still a great distance separating the Islamic peoples and their security, indeed their rights. But the road signs pointing to these meanings and rights are clear. The important thing is that the obstacles in this road not prevent it from being traveled. Perhaps one of the most important prerequisites to success in this journey (which represents some of the principles of the Casablanca statement) is the agreement of the leading and important Arab countries (such as Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, and Algeria especially) on a single Arab and Islamic strategy, at least as a beginning. Then Arab disputes can be ended, to enable the Arab world to resume its essential role, to complete the Islamic renewal, to eliminate the confrontation they speak of, in the West and North of the world, between Islam and the West.

Palestinian Affairs

'Urayqat on Settlement Decisions, 'Arafat Amman Visit

NC2601084695 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government with the Palestinian Authority, in Jericho, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 26 January; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, which began yesterday, is undoubtedly important with regard to signing a general Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and solving the differences between the two sides concerning jurisdiction over the city of Jerusalem. How do the Palestinians view the objectives of this visit?

['Urayqat] This is really an important visit. First, there is the issue of bilateral ties, the special relations between Jordan and Palestine. Agreements will be signed in the areas of security, economy, transport, communications, education, and other internal affairs. This, I believe, constitutes a qualitative promotion of the bilateral and fateful relations between the two peoples, in circumstances in which we face the challenges of the peace process.

Second, the visit falls within the context of Arab solidarity. As we have noticed since the Alexandria summit, which was called for by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, there have been serious and very important efforts to get Arab diplomacy and political activity out of crisis. President Mubarak's visit to Jordan was the first of its kind since the Gulf war. Now we have President 'Arafat visiting Jordan. I believe this Arab continuity and the reopening of channels that were closed for years, with the objective of finding a mechanism for common Arab action to confront challenges on every level, is very important at this particular time.

[Al-Jundi] As for jurisdiction over Jerusalem, the Jordanians and Palestinians have repeatedly said that they have reached an agreement over this dispute.

['Urayqat] First, let us say that Jerusalem is now an integral part of the occupied territories that have been under Israeli occupation since 1967. Israel's current attempt to Judaize Jerusalem and turn Arab Jerusalem into a mere Arab suburb is the biggest challenge for all the Arabs: the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Egyptians, the Saudis, the Syrians, and so on. I believe it is now time, as decided by the Jerusalem Committee at its recent meeting in Morocco, that we considered that Jerusalem is an occupied territory, and the issue of sovereignty and politics is a Palestinian affair. I think we must now concentrate on the measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities in this holy city. This is what matters now. We should focus on nothing but the Israeli Government's measures to impose a fait accompli in Jerusalem.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, in this context we must mention the decisions made by the ministerial committee formed by the Israeli Knesset regarding settlements in the occupied Arab territories. It is clear that the decisions support the Israeli inclination toward establishing further settlements on Palestinian territory.

['Urayqat] This is true. Last night an Israeli ministerial committee formed to discuss settlements decided to build 800 new housing units in the Ma'ale Adumim settlement, 4 km east of Jerusalem on the part occupied in 1967. It also decided to build 1,000 housing units in the next two years, 500 each year. The committee also decided to build 800 housing units at the Betar settlement in the next two years and to add a similar number to the Giv'at Ze'ev settlement. All these settlements around Jerusalem are located in the occupied territories. Last night the Israeli housing minister, at the end of the committee meeting, clearly boasted on Israeli television that during the Likud era only 4,000 housing units were built and that the Labor government added 2,000 units in two years only. This is the major challenge. As we said, all peace negotiations center on territory. The objective of the peace process is the gradual removal of the occupation. I believe that these Israeli decisions threaten to cause every aspect of the peace process to explode. Settlement groups are also active in other West Bank settlements, confiscating land and building roads. I think last night's decisions and the statements of the Israeli housing minister are very serious, a clear violation of the true significance and [word indistinct] of the peace process, and a flagrant violation of the agreement that no side should take any measures that might prejudice the negotiations for the final stage. There must be a serious position against these moves, because peace and settlements move in parallel.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, let me ask an important and specific question here. As a Palestinian official and head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israelis on the issue of elections, do you think this new Israeli settlement onslaught is a direct reaction to the latest act of violence near Netanya, north of Tel Aviv?

['Urayqat] No. The settlement wave, I believe, has continued for some time. I think settlement-building is part of the Israeli strategy for both the Likud and the Labor Party. His Excellency President 'Arafat literally told Rabin in his meeting with him: Peace and settlements run in parallel, they do not meet, and the Israeli Government must choose between peace and settlement. I believe the reply, as given by Rabin and the ministerial committee last night, is very serious and that these new challenges must be confronted firmly and strongly.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Al-Agha on Settlement Freeze, Political Separation

TA2601063095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision to continue building in the communities surrounding Jerusalem has prompted warnings from the Palestinians that it could threaten the peace process. Zakariya al-Agha, the Palestinian Authority official in charge of housing, said continued building in the territories could resparkle land demonstrations in the territories. He told No'omi Segal that anything short of a total freeze on building violates the Oslo accord.

[Begin recording] [al-Agha] We regret this, and we are sorry, because the Israelis are violating the DOP [Declaration of Principles] as regards the settlement activities. Just before less than one week, there was a meeting—and it was a fruitful meeting—with President 'Arafat, and we hope that this issue will stop, or at least will be frozen until we negotiate about the issue of settlements and the final status. It will cause unrest in the West Bank and other Palestinian territories, and it will make some [word indistinct] about the situation.

[Segal] This week Prime Minister Rabin spoke about a separation between Israelis and the Palestinians. How do the Palestinians react to this idea?

[Al-Agha] Indeed, you know, if this is a political separation, we are supporting this. When we are speaking, we are speaking about respectful peace, peace with equity between the two peoples, the two states, and with good relations. But if Mr. Rabin speaks about separation as just a security issue and as a punishment for the Palestinian people in Gaza and West Bank, we are against this. [end recording]

'Arafat Adviser Condemns Settlement Construction Plan

JN2601082895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has condemned the Israeli plan to build 3,000 housing units in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem. He said that the Israeli settlement plan obstructs the peace process and is a submission to the enemies of peace.

Kanafani added that stepping up settlement activities is an irrational response to the Bet Lid explosion.

'Arafat Warns Against 'Foul Play' in Self-Rule Areas

JN2401164795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a celebration to lay the foundation stone of the Palestinian Workers Federation project in Jabaliyah today, President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized the need for democracy and diversity for all within the framework of law and order to protect the Palestinian progress. 'Arafat said that the road is long and arduous and requires further solidarity and compassion as well as hands to build and entrench this independent state.

'Arafat noted that the workers movement is a pillar of national activity and added: I am honored to be one of those who contributed toward establishing many branches of this federation.

The president said: Let us build this homeland brick by brick and let us build our road to Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. 'Arafat noted that the biggest body with the greatest number of representatives in the Palestine National Council is the sector of Palestinian workers. He said: We are proud of this.

'Arafat added that it is the right of the Palestinian children, who created the intifadah, to live a democratic life, affirming that nobody has the right to exploit the liberated Palestinian territory for any foul play against the state and the National Authority.

'Arafat thanked the representative of the Norwegian Government, Mr. (Arnie), who attended the celebration, and the Norwegian Government for the assistance it has given to the Palestinian people.

It is worth mentioning that Haydar Ibrahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Workers Federation, also attended.

Israeli Media Quotation of 'Arafat Said 'Baseless'

JN2401143095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports disseminated by the Israeli media today quoting President 'Arafat as saying that "we are all potential suicide bombers." Kanafani stressed that these reports are false and baseless and are designed to harm President 'Arafat at this time in particular, a time that requires pooling efforts to confront the consequences of the latest bloody operation.

Kanfani said that in order to face this serious situation we must rise to the occasion and exert efforts to find a solution to the internal and external causes leading to such acts, which impede the peace process.

Nusaybah Sympathizes With Israel, Urges Talks To Go On

BR2401143895 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 24 Jan 95 p 15

[Interview with Sari Nusaybah, Palestinian Authority "Program Groups" chief, by Umberto De Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "'PLO Stands Firmly Beside Israel; Curb the Settlers'"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I sympathize with the grief that has led President Weizman to call for the suspension of the negotiations, but I would like to tell him that it would be a tragic decision because it would be tantamount to conceding victory to the fundamentalists." Thus said Sari Nusaybah, head of the Palestinian Authority's "Program Groups," one of the most authoritative intellectuals in the occupied territories. Shortly before attending a series of conferences in Italy promoted by the Milan-based Center for Peace in the Middle East, Nusaybah warned: "The fundamentalists have tried to use the Bet Lid massacre to break into the stalemate in the peace process so as to halt it once and for all."

[De Giovannangeli] Israel is under shock following the Bet Lid massacre. President Weizman has called for the negotiations to be suspended. What do you think of this initiative?

[Nusaybah] I think that Weizman's reaction was an emotional one in the face of a tragic event. As such, I understand and respect it, but I am firmly convinced that it represents a surrender to the terrorists at political level. The grief of those young soldiers' relatives is my, nay our grief, but morally speaking, even more than from a political viewpoint, I consider the Israeli Right's exploitation of the victims an extremely grave matter. The peace process must be speeded up, because it is the only way to deprive the fundamentalists of the arguments they use to win support and protection among the population in the territories.

[De Giovannangeli] Speed up negotiations to achieve what ends?

[Nusaybah] The implementation of the measures set out in the Oslo Agreements, particularly regarding the extension of autonomy to the whole of the West Bank, the redeployment of the Israeli army, and the freeze on Jewish settlements. The delay and uncertainty shown by Prime Minister Rabin in implementing the Oslo Agreements have merely ended up playing into the hands of the enemies of peace. His postponements have ended up strengthening the hawks in both camps and weakening 'Arafat's leadership.

[De Giovannangeli] Israeli forces in favor of dialogue are themsevles calling on the Palestinian Authority to curb the fundamentalists' campaign.

[Nusaybah] We cannot create false illusions on this point: Whatever efforts we could and should make, it will be impossible, at least in the short term, to put a stop to the suicidal acts of individuals who hold both other people's lives and their own in contempt. What we have to do, together with the Israelis, is deprive them of any pretext, any motive that could justify their deeds in the eyes of the population in the territories. This can be done with politics, not with arms. We shall succeed in isolating the fundamentalists only if we show the majority of Palestinians that peace is not merely a sort of "freedom on parole," but the first step toward improving their living conditions and obtaining recognition of our right to self-determination. We must educate for peace those who have always lived in a climate of war, and this can only be done in the course of time, fostering opportunities for encounters and dialogue, not raising drawbridges between the two peoples. In this sense I think that the decision to seal Gaza and the West Bank off yet again will only serve to increase the Palestinian workers' resentment. What worries me more is the sense of discouragement and disillusionment spreading among Palestinians; and the step from discouragement to taking orders from Hamas is short indeed.

[De Giovannangeli] Israel demands security, the Palestinians demand the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the West Bank. Are these demands irreconcilable?

[Nusaybah] No, they are the two sides of the same coin. You see, the Oslo Agreements are founded on a historical development process on the part of two nations, each of which has for decades seen the defeat of the other as the prerequisite for its own salvation. In other words, Israel's security and the right to national self-determination for the Palestinians hold together, they are closely bound up with one another. This being so, the continuing presence of the Israeli army and the Jewish settlements in the territories will mean the death of the peace process. We, for our part, have accepted the principle of a gradual implementation of the agreements, in the same way that we have agreed to strike a territorial compromise with Israel. Moreover, we are willing to discuss all measures that will guarantee the safety of Israeli citizens living in the territories. But there must be an end to the confiscation of Palestinian land by Jewish settlers, because no one will ever be able to convince the West Bank Palestinians that the confiscations are a necessary step in achieving autonomy. I appreciate Rabin's concern, and I do not underrate the pressure that the Right is bringing to bear on him, but with all the precautions and gradualness in the world, the Israeli leaders who belive in dialogue will have to summon up the courage to tell the Jewish people without any shadow of doubt that peace has a price: withdrawal from the occupied territories.

[De Giovannengeli] You have repeatedly raised the issue of democracy in the government of the autonomous territories, but is democracy any use with those who practise violence as an instrument of political conflict?

[Nusaybah] Democracy, political and cultural pluralism, and respect for otherness are not a "luxury" but the very foundation of the state we want to build: a state which, by virtue of these very characteristics, is light-years away from the totalitarian, theocratic concept advanced by the fundamentalists. That is why it is crucial to achieve free elections in the territories as soon as possible, because they will provide a chance to legitimize a new leadership and defeat the fundamentalists politically.

Quray' Affirms Sensitivity of Dual Citizenship Issue

JN2601121695 Amman THE STAR in English 26 Jan-1 Feb 95 p 1

["Special to THE STAR" by Ben Wedeman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Speaking to Ahmad Quray', the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, about the talks this week between Jordanian and Palestinian officials, it is difficult to determine whether he is talking about the beginning or the end of a relationship.

The talks he and his colleagues participated in this week are part of a process of defining "relations between two countries," he said in an interview with The Star. "We are speaking about two economies."

But these two economies apparently involve the same people. "We are one people here and there. it's not (a question of) nationality, it is's not a passport. it's not a paper, it is a family, part of it here, part of it there," he said.

He acknowledged that one of the touchiest issues dividing the two sides, dual Palestinian-Jordanian nationality, had been informally discussed. "The Jordanians have their own laws, and we have our ambitions for our passport and our nationality. We have to coordinate to find the way" to a solution.

Jordan has expressed an unwillingness to allow dual nationality in accordance with Arab League resolutions. Sensing a Jordanian reluctance to address the issue, Quray' takes a conciliatory approach. "We don't want to ask the people to choose between here or there. It will not be in favor of Jordan and it will not be in our favour. It is not the time to make the people decide.

Commenting on the health of the peace process, Quray' said the Sunday bombing in Bet Lid, which left 19 Israelis dead and more than 60 wounded, has done little to improve matters. "We are sorry for what has happened. None of us was under the impression that nothing would happen. There are enemies of peace, and therefore it is expected, but this is the price we have to pay." The best way to improve the prospects for peace, he said, is to accelerate the negotiations, already seven months behind schedule.

Asked at what point the PLO would stop negotiations and rethink the viability of the talks in their current form, he replied: "When there is no more logic to the delays, we should study and reassess what we are doing."

He condemned the closure by Israel this week of the West Bank and Gaza as "collective punishment." Such unilateral action is "not fair. It is not in favor of the (peace) process, but what can we do? We protested, we criticized it, but what more?"

Referring to the on-going funding crisis in the PNA, Quray' said "unfortunately we have tried so much, and ...we are fed up of saying that the flow of assistance is so inadequate. All the expectations of the people are so much higher than the flow of assistance."

Security Forces Uncover Secret Organization

TA2401125195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 95 p 15

[Report by Eli Buhadana]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian security forces recently uncovered a secret organization whose activists had planned to carry out attacks against Palestinian targets. Its members belong to Fatah's Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] faction, which opposes PLO head Yasir 'Arafat.

Several days ago, following intelligence activity, the Palestinian security forces detained six people suspected of belonging to the organization. Its aim was to carry out attacks against Palestinian security system targets, as well as against members of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the autonomy council, in order to send shock waves through the PA and halt the peace process.

The link between the organization and the hand grenade which blew up Saturday at the Rafah home of a Palestinian Preventive Security officer is being investigated. No one was hurt in the explosion.

Opposition Reacts to Clinton's 'Freezing' Decision

JN2501150495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has said that U.S. President Bill Clinton may have the alleged assets so that they may help him overcome the economic problems and social imbalances inside the United States. Hawatimah said that Clinton's decision [to freeze the assets of and prevent U.S. financial institutions from dealing with 12 terrorist organizations and 18 people involved in terrorism] is a clear expression of the bankruptcy of U.S. and Israeli solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the Oslo agreement, which has failed to make peace and realize security and stability for the Palestinian or Israeli people.

For his part, Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], deputy secretary general of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP] has said that the PFLP has no economic or financial interests in the United States. Therefore, he says, Clinton's decision is a fabrication aimed to back Israeli terrorism, since it ignores Israel's acts of aggression, whether against the Palestinian people through settlement activity, suppression, and confiscation of lands or against the Lebanese people through Israel's daily acts of aggression against southern Lebanon.

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, has said that his movement does not have any assets in any U.S. or foreign banks and that the movement's sole asset is faith and will. He added that, for his movement, this decision is a useless illusion that indicates the hostility and hatred the U.S. administration harbors toward Islam, Muslims, and the Arab nation. Al-Shaqaqi said that Clinton is leading a crusader campaign against the Arab and Islamic nation.

Jibril 'Not Amazed' by Decision

JN2501184795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has made the following statement to news agencies: The United States unabashedly and constantly insists on attempting to impose unconditional capitulation on our people and nation in the service of the Zionist entity, which occupies Palestine and displaces its people. We are not amazed by the recent U.S. decision by President Clinton. However, what is really amazing is to see the U.S. Administration on the side of fair causes or human rights. We know well that what the U.S. Administration is talking about is nothing but a fallacy and a major ploy by the Great Satan. On this occasion, we say that the leaders and mujahidin whose names are included on the list do not have any personal funds or assets in U.S. or other banks.

The PFLP-GC secretary general continues: For my part, I tell them: You are free to confiscate whatever you want, because we have never been accustomed to compiling money; we are mujahidin who rely on jihad and sacrifice souls and blood rather than raise funds. We ask President Clinton, who led his foreign policy and stands to levels that make one feel pathetic for them and him: How can you accept to be an opponent to helpless individuals and organizations that rely on nobody but God?

Islamic Jihad's al-Shaqaqi, Hamas Official Interviewed

MM2501180195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Rafiq Khalil al-Ma'luf in Washington, 'Ali Nun in London, Raghidah Dirgham in New York, and Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus: "Hamas Warns 'Arafat Against Playing With Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, has said that the Syrian Government "has not informed me of anything new," saying that his departure from Damascus "would not benefit" the U.S. Administration. In fact it would "kindle" the movement's actions.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH al-Shaqaqi said: We have no official presence. Nor do we get any form of help. We pass through Damascus just like we pass through various Arab capitals. And we have not until now announced any military operation from the Syrian capital. What happens is that some statements are sent to Damascus, just like those sent to Beirut, Amman, and Cairo." He stressed that the movement's official statements "are not issued from Damascus."

Al-Shaqaqi pointed out that "the movement has no official presence in any Arab country. Because our main headquarters is inside Palestine. And any operation is planned inside and implemented there [in Israel] by fighters, who are not sent by Damascus or any other capital, because the [Palestinian] people are ready to fight." He added that Jihad elements seize "the arms from the hands of the Zionist soldiers and their military bases. They know this."

The Islamic Jihad secretary general said that the Syrians "know that I am expelled from Palestine in response to a personal decision from Rabin when he was defense minister. And since Arab capitals are open to any Arab, I came to Damascus." He added that whether he was in Damascus or anywhere else, "I would play a political and informational role without any military actions. The brothers in Syria consider the Palestinian people's jihad and struggle inside Palestine a legitimate right endorsed by all international laws. They also know that we do not fire a single bullet outside Palestine, whether the target is Arab or Jewish."

On Secretary Warren Christopher's request to Syria not to provide "shelter" to him, al-Shaqaqi said that the U.S. Administration's position "is unjust and completely biased. Why do we not hear their voice when our people are massacred and when southern Lebanon is bombarded. Are the Israelis human beings and we are other creatures?" He said that what "our mujahidin did was that they hit a specific military target, They hit paratroopers who were on their way to carry out military missions, maybe to bombard Lebanon or to torture the Palestinian people in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip." The Islamic Jihad secretary general added that the movement's work "is to do with resistance for the sake of our freedom, and we are not in any way terrorists."

Addressing Christopher, he said: "It is of no benefit to the United States for us to move out of this or that Arab capital. Our departure would not destroy our resistance inside Palestine. It would, rather, kindle it."

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, has told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that: "We warn 'Arafat not allow the Zionist retaliation to the Netanya operation to be carried out through him. We tell him and leaders of the [Palestinian] Authority in Gaza: Don't you dare submit to Zionist pressure. The Palestine mosque massacre, which took place on 18 November 1994, nearly a month after Hamas' operation in Tel Aviv, was contained, thanks to Hamas leaders and their influence on the Palestinian scene, in order to avoid an explosion. But the results of any other massacres or large-scale arrests against Hamas or Islamic Jihad leaders would be disastrous. We tell them not to play with fire, because this time it would burn you and burn the Gaza Strip over your heads."

Ghawshah pointed out that Washington's accusation against Hamas and the Jihad of exercising terrorism "is not new. (U.S. Secretary of State) Warren Christopher came to the region in the past and incited 'Arafat and others against us." He said that the request to Damascus not to shelter "terrorist organizations" falls within "the context of trying to squeeze Syria, put pressure on it, and twist its arm to force it to respond further to reactivating the negotiations with Israel. It is not an official threat, but, rather, an attempt to exploit the situation and score some points, that is all."

He said that Hamas' policy has nothing to do with "self-rule, the presence of a Labor government (in Israel), or anything else. It is a strategic line which will not be halted. And what the U.S. Administration is saying, namely that our aim is to destroy peace, is untrue. The truth is that we are the spearhead in the Palestinian people's struggle and their demands, first and foremost the return of 4 million refugees to their land."

Ghawshah pointed out that the Israeli arrest campaign against Hamas elements in the West Bank has continued since the Tel Aviv operation last year. And the number of detainees now totals about 1,000. He expected Rabin to abandon the separation policy he announced, "because their policy is to circumvent the self-rule, not vice versa [sentence as published]." [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leader: U.S. 'Does Not Want Peace'

MM2501163095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jan 95 pp1, 4

[Reports by Amir Taheri and 'Ali al-Salih in London and Muhammad Sadiq in Washington: "Washington: Assets of 12 Organizations and 18 Figures Frozen on Suspicion of 'Link With Terrorism'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The White House yesterday announced that U.S. President Bill Clinton signed an executive order freezing the assets of 12 Middle Eastern organizations described as "terrorist organizations" including two Jewish extremist organizations, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad Movement as well as 18 individuals. [passage omitted]

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT commenting on that step, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Islamic Jihad Movement's leader, said that "this step is a U.S. attempt to please Israel and beg for Jewish votes in the U.S. elections." Al-Shaqaqi added: "I am now certain that the United States does not want peace in the region. Had it really wanted peace, its attitude would have been more balanced."

A Palestinian source close to the Palestinian Authority, who wished to remain anonymous, commenting on the American step, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "It would have been better if, before freezing the assets, the administration had barred leaders of the Palestinian Islamic movements from entering the United States." The official [as published] added: "Our information is that a Hamas leader has been in the United States since last week." [passage omitted]

Al-Shaqaqi Comments on Israeli 'Security Fence'

NC2501192095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Islamic Jihad Movement Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi by Mahdi Hasan al-Khafaji; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Khafaji] As you know, Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that a security fence will be built to separate the Palestinians and Zionists. Why do the Zionists want to build this fence?

[Al-Shaqaqi] They want to isolate the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the territories occupied in 1948 to prevent our people from attacking Zionist military targets. In my opinion, this idea is futile and useless, since some military operations that have taken place inside 1948 occupied Palestine have been carried out by Palestinian strugglers who come from the 1948 occupied territories. Furthermore, the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip still remain and the occupation forces are still there. These will remain targets of strugglers' attacks. Therefore, this fence is a futile idea that will not solve Rabin's security problem. They are flabbergasted by the dilemma in which they have been placed by the heroic military operations .

[Al-Khafaji] Do you believe there are Zionist motives behind the building of this fence, especially as Rabin has noted that this fence will not be built along the 1948 armistice lines but along new lines?

[Al-Shaqaqi] He wants to include those areas of the West Bank that he wants to finally annex to so-called Israel. He is settling this issue now because the Israelis have always said that they will not withdraw to the 1967 lines. They want to annex some areas and share the other areas with the self-rule Authority or with the king of Jordan. They want to annex the settlements, whose areas plus the seized lands make up 73 percent of the West Bank. Therefore, Rabin wants to annex a part of the West Bank, maintain the settlements in another part, and keep a third part under his strategic military control so that he can attack and penalize the Palestinian people whenever he wants.

[Al-Khafaji] Do you believe the new Israeli measures will affect the morale of the struggling Palestinian people?

[Al-Shaqaqi] The Palestinian people's morale is raised by the escalation of military action. People are emerging from the sense of frustration implanted by Yasir 'Arafat and his Authority, and there is now a very festive atmosphere in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Therefore, only positive things can result from military action. In the absence of military action and in the atmosphere of insecurity and economic deterioration brought about by the self-rule Authority, there can only be further frustration. We are working and hoping that the strugglers' role will be to end this frustration and enhance the joyful and festive struggling mood now prevailing.

Refusal To Condemn Netanya Attack Said 'Understandable'

MM2601141095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 15

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Refusal To Condemn Understandable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again it has become clear that it is difficult to halt the peace process in the Middle East, even through an operation like the one which targeted Israeli soldiers in Netanya. The certain thing is that condemning this operation will not be sufficient to guarantee the continuation of the peace process. Especially as there are in the Arab world people who can say that the war is still continuing as long as Israel continues to try to impose a fait accompli in the occupied territories. Especially by continuing to expand the so-called administrative borders of Jerusalem to include 25 percent of the West Bank with a view to creating a wall of settlements to prevent any discussion of the existence of rights for the Arabs in holy Jerusalem.

Thus the position of refusing to condemn the Netanya operation is understandable. Especially as this refusal is not aimed against the peace process. In fact it falls in the framework of trying to tell Israel that peace does not mean concessions from one side, but, rather, mutual concessions, even though the regional balances of power are not in the Arab's favor. More clearly, Syria, for example, can adhere to the peace process by reemphasizing that the peace option is "a strategic option," as far as it is concerned, without being forced to condemn the suicide operation, which is an expression of Arab and Palestinian rejection, specifically of the fait accompli policy pursued by Israel.

Actually what happened in Netanya will lead to many things, first and foremost slowing down the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and creating further difficulties for the Palestinian leadership, which had hoped that Yitzhaq Rabin's government would embark on specific steps to enable it to say—contrary to the reality—that there is real progress on the Palestinian track, the least of which is the prisoners' release and the Israeli Army's redeployment in the West bank. The biggest Palestinian achievement has become the Yitzhaq Rabin government's nonwithdrawal from the negotiations!

Something that could be more serious than all this, would be for Israel to choose to retaliate through Lebanon, with what that would mean in terms of the evacuation of the people of the south and further pressures on the Lebanese Government and the situation in Beirut in particular. If Yitzhaq Rabin's government adopts this option, the least that can be said is that it would be serving the aims of those who carried out the Netanya operation, namely to cause confusion everywhere in the region.

If there is a real Israeli wish for the parties concerned with the peace process to condemn what happened in Netanya, it must be acknowledged that there is a need for some balance with regard to this process. That can only be achieved by refraining from imposing conditions no Arab party can accept or justify to its citizens. Then what can be done can be considered, especially what should not be done, in order to avert operations of this kind in the future.

Algeria

Reportage on Letter by FIS Leader Ali Benhadj

Defends Rome Agreement

MM2601102495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jan 95 pp1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Extensive U.S. Activity on Algeria. Benhadj: Presidential Elections Would Intensify Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris—The Algerian foreign minister yesterday received the U.S. ambassador to Algeria, a day after the U.S. ambassador's meeting with [National] Liberation Front [FLN] leaders in the course of extensive U.S. diplomatic activity on Algeria. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Pelletreau is expected to arrive in Paris early next week for contacts, among others, with the Sant'Egidio Society leaders.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Ali Benhadj, deputy leader of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], has defended the recent Rome agreement, stressing that it contained signs of a just and legitimate solution that could uproot the Algerian crisis. That came in a message written by Benhadj on 20 January and leaked from his place of house arrest, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy. In his eight-page message, Benhadj answers the statements made by government's spokesman Minister Ahmed Attaf in which he said that the Rome meeting was a non-event and contained nothing new and that the regime totally rejects it.

Benhadj said that the Rome meeting repudiated the feeble pretext used by "the military clique to cancel the election process and dismiss President Bendjedid, namely the claim that there were opposing political trends which could not be reconciled." He said that President Zeroual used the same excuse in his 1 November speech to justify presidential elections.

In his message, Benhadj pointed out that the Rome meeting "proved that the problem is not with the parties or the people but between the legitimate parties and the illegitimate regime, and that the Rome meeting disproved the false claim that the parties were operating within narrow partisan limits without regard for the country's higher interests and that they preferred political games to serve personal interests and seek seats of power. This claim has now been negated by that national convenant."

Benhadj also said in his message that the national convenant signed by the opposition parties in Rome proved that "the opposition can find common denominators and try hard to implement them in the interest of the nation while at the same time preserving each party's own special character in the context of Islamic principles and the nation's firmly entrenched values. They have agreed to cooperate in their implementation of the common denominators agreed upon. Regarding the resolution of their points of disagreement on the conflict, there are two means:

1. Settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Book [the Koran] and the Prophet's teachings, which is the legitimate duty in every conflict and dispute;
2. Going back to the nation so that it may choose its own representatives, particularly as the Islamic nation cannot condone a wrongdoing."

The message also emphasized that the Rome agreement "proved that the advocates of the Islamic plan really believe in serving the plan by peaceful means. That was effectively proved in the field as far as FIS is concerned. But, at the same time, they reject the usurpation of their right to free political action, and so engage in jihad against those who usurped their rights."

Shaykh Benhadj repeated his rejection of the condemnation of armed action and terrorism, maintaining that that comes under "the right to engage in jihad against the repressive authorities. That is legitimate under the Shari'ah, as it is under other systems. According to the French Constitution, when the government violates the people's rights, then the right of revolution becomes a most sacred right. Benhadj accused the regime of having been the source of terrorism since 1962 and of practicing terrorism through the arrest of political figures, assassinations, and related acts. He said that he condemns state terrorism because it is the most dangerous kind of terrorism." [quotation marks as published] He added: "Islam is the religion of mercy, tolerance, lenience, and flexibility; but it is also the religion of honor which forbids injustice."

Benhadj warned against presidential elections according to the regime's declared plan. He said that "the authorities do not understand that presidential elections are not a mere technicality but a political matter in the first place and that, far from solving the problem, they would make it worse. I say that if such elections are held, they would make the situation more explosive than before. I am here warning of the consequences of this unsafe adventure."

The FIS leader defended the Rome meeting as a move made necessary after the opposition parties could find no other ways. He added that the opposition parties really rejected internationalization and foreign interference out of conviction and a study of history but, through the Rome meeting, they wanted to explain their cause and dispel the distorted image of the opposition portrayed by all insitutions of the regime.

Belhad stressed that it was the regime which was resorting to "real internationalization and has for three long years been trying to internationally legitimize confrontation with the Islamic trend in the name of fighting terrorism and checking the black dangers of fundamentalism, as they claim. One prime minister once said abroad that if the West does not help us materially, militarily, and politically, Algeria will fall to fundamentalism and terrorism and that would be a threat to Europe." He added that "the current despotic regime does not know the difference between internationalizing the issue and seeking foreign intervention on the one hand, and explaining the cause to repudiate accusations and distortions on the other." Reacting to the charge that the opposition had had recourse to a Catholic society, Benhadj said: "The strangest thing is the regime's attempts to isolate the opposition internally and externally in the name—this time—of Islam and fear of the cross on its behalf, when for three long years it continuously accused the opposition and especially the FIS of exploiting Islam to serve selfish interests and power objectives. It is now clear that it was the regime which exploited Islam for political purposes."

Despite the fact that Benhadj refused to condemn armed action on the grounds that it is a legitimate right—which is not a new position by the FIS and its leaders—and despite his sharp criticism of the regime and some of its officials, his message was characterized by a high degree of political flexibility not previously demonstrated by him, whether in regard to dealing with other political forces or the means of settling differences with them. The message confirms the view of people who have met with Benhadj recently that he has developed considerably in the direction of a more realistic political concept. According to lawyer 'Ali 'Abd-al-Nur who recently met with him more than once, he has even begun learning French.

Benhadj's message noticeably failed to mention the position of the armed Islamic groups opposed to the Rome agreement. That is perhaps because he wrote it before the latest statement published in AL-ANSAR. In this connection, FIS sources deny that the Islamic Salvation Army rejected the Rome agreement. They emphasize that the Salvation Army command will issue a statement on this matter later on. What was attributed to the Salvation Army was just an opinion expressed in AL-FATH AL-MUBIN [imminent victory] bulletin issued by Katabat al-'Ahd [Pledge Units], an armed organization operating in the central region and organizationally not a part of the Salvation Army, although it considers itself to be a part of it.

Defensive Force Sanctioned

BR2601074595 Paris LIBERATION in French 25 Jan 95 p 13

[Report by Jose Garcon: "FIS Second in Command Supports 'Peace Offer' Adopted in Rome"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Ten days after the meeting of Algeria's major opposition parties in Rome, Ali Benhadj, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has spoken out on the "platform" adopted there. In a very long letter dated 20 January which LIBERATION received yesterday, he gives his support to the Rome initiative, albeit without renouncing the societal ideal advocated by the FIS.

No less than eight long pages covered in a tiny handwriting were necessary for Ali Benhadj to bring his support to the "national contract" endorsed by Algeria's major opposition parties in Rome and to reject all accusations from the government. From Algiers, where he has been under house arrest since 13 September with FIS supreme leader Abassi Madani, Ali Benhadj wrote two letters in one which are, he says, a "response" to the government spokesman who rejected the opposition's peace offer. The first letter—very long and highly political—is intended for Islamic activists and, obviously enough, Islamic "warriors" as well. However, it is the second letter—short and to the point—which explicitly expresses support for the platform adopted in Rome, a support strongly pervaded by the ideology of the Islamic movement, with Ali Benhadj stating that "the Islamic program is the best there is."

However, for the first time, the leader who is closest to the Islamic "rank and file" and probably the only one still enjoying a degree of legitimacy—including in the minds of armed groups, even the most radical among them—is making his own the Rome "peace offer." "A just and legitimate solution to the crisis as well as the fair handling of it can be found in the Rome platform," Ali Benhadj says. Indeed, in the "political system" he defines, the FIS leader acknowledges "the Nation's right to choose its leaders freely"; the "rejection of any oppression and dictatorship"; the "right to oppose" which is "guaranteed by the Charia" (Islamic law); the "diversity and multiplicity of oppositions," and the "respect owed to the rights of man and public liberties." However, he makes no mention of the "respect for alternative representation" inscribed in the Rome document. [passage omitted]

At the same time, Ali Benhadj does not rule out the potential use of force. "He who would take away (from the people—editor's note) its right through state terrorism must expect a riposte sanctioned by God, that is, the fact that the oppressor will fall sooner or later." Stating that "submission to authority is conditional but not absolute since (a ruler) is a fallible human being," Ali Benhadj insists on the right to "correct him [the ruler], depose him, or rise against him should he stray from the straight and narrow path." Finally, he states that "Islam does provide for a distinction between that which stems from divine right—immutable until the end of time—and that which may change." [passage omitted]

As for a potential call for an end to violence, the FIS leader only states once more the position of his movement—which is also part of the Rome document—that is, the request for a preliminary meeting between "the FIS leadership and its political and military components both outside and inside the country." He also rules out—as is the case for most of the signatories of the "peace offer"—a future presidential election which he considers would be "rushing things a bit."

Unsurprisingly, the portion of the letter which seems to be intended more directly for FIS activists is extremely vehement against the government, which it calls a "bunch of terrorists" in front of whom "we shall not bow down regardless of the death toll." He also rejects at length the charges of "internationalizing" the conflict and favoring "foreign interference" leveled at the opposition by the Algiers government.

"The internationalization of the crisis is the deed of the government," Ali Benhadj says, citing as an example the recent meeting in Tunis of the interior ministers of six southern European and Maghreb countries. There is a good reason for the FIS leader to be so adamant in defending the decision to hold the opposition meeting abroad ("this is not a choice but a necessity"): The FIS knows that charges of "conniving with foreigners" carry some weight in a country where nationalism remains very strong.

Most interesting, however, is probably the way Benhadj answers attacks from the government and part of the Algerian media against the participants in the Rome meeting, who allegedly "sought the protection of the Christians." He ridicules "these rulers who for the last three years have been constantly asking the West to provide them with weapons and money so they could defend themselves and who today would have us believe they are a bulwark against the crusaders!" Those seen as "crusaders" by Algiers are those political parties and personalities in attendance in Rome as well as the Catholic community which sponsored the event.

Penal Code Amendments Proposed To Combat Terrorism

LD2601105395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The penal code drawn up in 1966 needs to be brought up to date like any other law in order to keep up with the development, organization, and modernization of society and to fill the legal gap left by crimes which society never experienced before. These words, said by the minister of justice to the Transitional National Council, explains why amendments need to be made in the penal code. [passage omitted]

Rania Cherif is here this morning with two examples:

[Cherif] It is stipulated that any person holding, selling, carrying, making, distributing, importing, or exporting explosive substances or any other substance used for preparing or making them without permission from the competent authorities is liable to the death penalty.

The draft also stipulates that any Algerian enrolling abroad into an armed group, whatever form it may take, (?and) convicted of terrorist activity, even if it is not directed against Algeria, is punishable with a fine of between 100,000 and 500,000 dinars and is also liable to a prison sentence of five to 10 years.

It should also be stressed that in the event of sentences in criminal cases of two to 10 years, the prisoner's goods can also be confiscated. [passage omitted]

'Political Justice' of Special Courts Denounced

LD2501135795 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Special courts are to be done away with in the long run after the revision of the Algerian penal code. Meanwhile, these courts have been strongly denounced by the international and Algerian human rights organizations. Let us listen to Mr. [Ali Yahia] Abdennour, chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights. He spoke to Chantal Lorho:

[Begin Abdennour recording] This is political justice. When politics enters the court, justice leaves it, so any decision taken by special courts are null. Amnesty International has denounced them. The American League of Human Rights has denounced them. We ourselves, our league, we have denounced them, and we do not plead before special courts precisely because they do not assume... [pauses] they do not allow the normal defense of defendants or even that of lawyers. [end recording]

Security Services Say 15 'Terrorist' 'Liquidated'

LD2501193195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued today by the security services said the security forces liquidated 15 terrorists in the east, west, and center of the country. The statement explained that the security forces recovered quantities of weapons and ammunition during the operations they carried out in Constantine, Djidjel, Skikda, Taref, Blida, and Tlemcen.

Egypt

Mubarak Delivers Police Day Address

NC2501110595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0901 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a celebration marking Police Day in the Police Academy in Cairo on 25 January—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate.

Brothers and Sons, Officers, and Soldiers of the Police: Today we celebrate together the memory of a glorious day in the history of national struggle. On that day, brave men of the Egyptian police demonstrated their courage in defense of rights and duties. They sacrificed their noble blood in a great act of national steadfastness, making this glorious event a day to be celebrated by the Egyptian Police, embodying its sublime message of safeguarding the homeland's security, making great sacrifices in the line of duty, and offering commitment throughout history to the national goals of the Egyptian people.

Throughout history the police have backed the Egyptian people's struggle, helping them during hardship, safeguarding their safety and livelihood, shielding them against the evils of crime, helping them face contingencies, and safeguarding for all a safe country in which law prevails.

The police have committed themselves to the interests of the masses, guarding the safety of each citizen, and protecting his honor, freedom, and money. The police are part of this people. They are individuals who are the sons of this homeland, creating officers and soldiers alike from every category of the people, carrying in their hearts their values and heritage. They observe God, their conscience, and the homeland and do their utmost to do their duty.

The Egyptian police have always lived as a national establishment that guards the aspirations of the people and shares their concerns. It works within the framework of discipline and supremacy of the law. Its performance reflects the genuine and great nature of this people.

Police sacrifices, most notably in the events of 25 January 1952, when a limited number of men held fast until the last breath against the occupation forces—reflect this great establishment's commitment to the goals and aspirations of the people. The unyielding position of the police is to defend the people's rights and interests when it comes to the lawbreakers, the merchants of forbidden goods who live off crime, manipulate death, spread mutiny and destruction among the people, and harbor ill will toward Egypt's safety and future.

The police lost innocent martyrs in numerous confrontations imposed by the evil crimes of law-breaking cliques. Most of the police martyrs were victims of treachery in situations that involved no confrontation. This treachery sought to take revenge on a national establishment that was waging the most noble of battles in defense of Egypt's security and stability.

Despite the ferocity of the treachery that sought to terrify the community and squander the homeland's resources, the Egyptian security apparatus maintained its position of abiding by the law and making Egypt's lofty, independent judiciary an observer of all its acts, to control the soundness of any measure the police might take, fully respecting the provisions of the Constitution and the law.

Egypt has not done anything like those many countries that belong to the most ancient and respectable democracies in the world. Egypt has not applied any draconian extraordinary measures that would enable security to curb armed violence. Egypt has not given security any huge, broad jurisdictions to detain or suspect anyone without limits as a precaution against possible dangers or to treat anyone who sympathizes with those groups harshly or severely.

Egypt has not done anything of this sort out of its concern to safeguard the supremacy of law and reject any extraordinary measures that could harm our democratic system. Despite this, some lies are being promoted and some facts are being distorted to destroy the great success the security agencies achieved last year when they managed to deal several successful blows that crippled the ability of those groups, undermined their organizational structure throughout Egypt, and forced them to retreat and hide in remote areas from which they launch treacherous attacks.

Those people were very annoyed at the great success of the Egyptian security agencies, which was based on organized scientific plans that enabled the police to infiltrate terrorist groups, to maintain the initiative in following their organizations effectively, and arrest the real culprits immediately after any incidents. They were annoyed by that close cooperation between the police and the people. They were also annoyed to see that the masses are waging the battle of confrontation alongside the police force and are raising their voices on every occasion expressing Egypt's conscience and its national consensus and demanding that the remnants of those groups be punished immediately.

It might be understandable if this campaign had been started by certain elements known for their sympathy with the outlawed groups and their propaganda campaigns in favor of the groups' false justifications. It is regrettable that this unjust campaign involved other elements whose commitment to democracy is known to us. They are aware of the danger surrounding the country as a result of the acts of these groups, whose principal goal is to undermine democracy, impose despotism, wipe out personal opinion, and physically liquidate every intellectual, thinker, and cultured person who wishes to understand, question, or argue.

Those who supported the false claims should have been careful in adopting their stands and should have seen the reality of the objectives behind the increasing evil campaign against the security service lately so that the reality will not disappear amid unjustified one-upmanship.

Brothers and sisters: Freedom of the press does not mean backing armed violence, inciting its acts, or stabbing a nationalist establishment in the back as it stands up to the evil doings of outlawed groups that want nothing good, no growth, and no life for the country.

If someone imagines that freedom of opinion and freedom of speech means upholding and defending this practice, this is sheer illusion. This is because freedom of speech will be the first victim and because intellectuals are the first target in this process. I believe that what has recently happened in Egypt proves this fact. I also believe that those interested in freedom of the press and freedom of speech in Egypt know for certain that those groups, in nearby countries, have so far assassinated dozens of writers, thinkers, and authors who mostly belong to a moderate school of thinking, which only demands the preservation of democratic rights for everybody.

If those living in illusion who propagate a policy of reluctance and ambivalence in the face of the sinful terrorism imagine that they can restrict the state's freedom to perform its duties and live up to its responsibilities, they are mistaken. They even participate, consciously or unconsciously, in committing this sin against the people and the homeland. But the security of the people and the safety of the homeland are above any other consideration; ensuring these is the first duty of the honest citizen who places the supreme interests of the homeland above any other consideration.

Brothers and sons: We have not taken, and will not take, an antagonistic stance toward the opposition. We have not become intolerant about it and we do not wish to infringe upon any of its rights, because we know that the opposition has a national role to play without which a democratic system would not be complete. We also know that the truth cannot be monopolized by some, for it is the outcome of a free dialogue and a constructive interaction involving various viewpoints until the best opinion or the one closest to correct is reached. We know for certain that the opposition and the regime are both in the same boat. Together, the two make up an integrated system that is rejected by advocates of terrorism and authoritarianism. But we make a distinction between a legitimate opposition that seeks to correct the mistakes and rectify the course, that honors the people's supreme interests, and respects the limits of national consensus and another opposition that makes a living by indulging in destruction and that hides behind freedom of the press to cover up its real objective, which is instigation and sensationalism.

The opposition that considered tourism, for instance, to be a heathen practice that deserves to be declared sinful—thus harming the interests of broad masses who make a living by engaging in a lawful [halal] business—and the opposition that permitted the shedding of the blood of patriotic thinkers who have defended Egypt's right to a secure, safe, and stable homeland, and the opposition that is leading an unjust campaign against Egyptian security for making great successes and which everyday publishes utter lies, this kind of opposition cannot be a patriotic, fair, or legitimate opposition that seeks the well-being of the homeland and the welfare of the citizens.

An evenhanded opposition criticizes and advises, but it does not falsify or incite; it uncovers errors, negligence, and corruption but it is committed to the limits of legitimacy and never goes beyond them to areas forbidden by established laws and values. I believe that most of the Egyptian opposition factions are assuming an evenhanded position that reflects the collective national will to safeguard Egypt's security and stability and bravely support the national security apparatus as it deters the evils of hired, misled, and misleading groups that break the law and deviate from the national will.

Brothers and sons; the Egyptian people have unanimously and sincerely stood by its police, helping them perform their sublime task to preserve the homeland's security and stability. The people have spared no occasion to declare their full preference for the police in the constant battle with outlawed groups. The people have participated in tracking down criminals and demanding immediate punishment of the enemies of God and the homeland. They have let no occasion pass without declaring their rejection of terrorism and their condemnation of its methods and tools. They have not hesitated in providing sincere help to the police to enable them to chase and uproot these groups. With their sharp wisdom, the people have realized that the issue is not one of a vendetta between the police and these groups, contrary to what some ignorant people like to promote. They have realized that it is the issue of an outlawed clique that squanders people's values and threatens their march so that they can serve foreign powers that want no stability or progress in Egypt.

The core of the issue is that we are up against hired groups that have turned their evil activity into a profession and trade. It is the duty of the entire public to back the police in confronting and hunting down these groups everywhere and in arresting those who take murder and terror as a craft in exchange for a cheap price and in pursuit of a mean goal.

However, the men of the security apparatus have left the doors wide open to those who wanted to repent, to urge the members of these groups to return to the right course, abandon their shameful ways, and become good citizens who partake of the march of construction and progress. The goal of the security apparatus has been, and still is to rescue young people who have been so blinded by delusion that they have turned against their people and homeland and have gone about damaging the land, killing, and destroying without knowing that they were mere tools in an evil criminal plot governed by agent foreign interests that seek to stop the march of the Egyptian people toward glory, development, and peace.

Hundreds of those have returned to the right course to tell everyone how deeply they were deceived by hired groups that follow violence and law-breaking as a way of life. The truth is that the masses' leaning toward the police and their standing by them represents a decisive turning point in the confrontation with these groups.

Brothers and Sons, the close cooperation between the police and the people is the cornerstone to achieving the homeland's security in an integrated way, because the police alone cannot guarantee security everywhere and because there is no alternative to a responsible role for each citizen so that the police can succeed in combating crime, resisting deviation, striking blows at the merchants of poison and death, and following up every case of lawbreaking. The police cannot shoulder these heavy burdens alone, no matter how strong and vigilant they are, if there is no close cooperation with the people backed by each citizen's awareness of his responsibility toward his homeland, society, and family.

The scope of action for the police has expanded as a result of the increasing complexities of modern life, increasing criminal trends, and the growth of organized crime. The cooperation of the people and all their establishments with the police has become necessary for applying the law, achieving discipline in our daily life, and repelling the numerous dangers threatening the homeland's security.

It might be necessary to ask ourselves this: How can the police eliminate commercial fraud in the absence of a responsible role for every citizen who rejects and resists fraud? How can the police fight monopolist trends and greed in the absence of a national awareness of the danger that this phenomenon poses to society? How can the police protect public funds in the absence of the people's awareness that these funds belong to the people and that every citizen is responsible for protecting them? If it can be said that the police are the people's watchful eye, then the people should be the conscience of their capable police and should point out their shortcomings and mistakes and inform them of the dens of crime, corruption, and their suspicions.

Any citizen's contribution to enhancing police capability in confronting lawbreaking means enhancing his and his family's security and that of his society at large, because the homeland's security involves the security of every citizen and because some crimes, if not all crimes, have consequences that can affect every house and family. Similarly, the police force contribution to enhancing mutual trust with the masses is vital for the homeland's security, because it creates the right atmosphere for a disciplined society that appreciates the police role and respects the sovereignty of the law.

I am confident that the growing trust between the police and the public can shorten the time needed to confront the groups that operate outside the law and ease the task of the police force, because crimes do not occur in a vacuum. Ultimately, they are a burden on society, ruining its security, hampering its interests, and corrupting social life.

Brothers and sons, officers, and soldiers of the police: Rest assured that you are performing for the homeland a noble mission that is the object of pride and appreciation for every patriot. You are the guardians of stability and progress. The homeland and the citizens are proud of you. Your conscience is clear. History will testify to this because you are defending the interests of a struggling people aspiring to a better future, preserving the homeland's right to stability and security, and acquitting our religion of the behavior of a misled minority that is harming Islam's tolerance and image.

You must have full confidence in your great people who will never forget your noble sacrifices in defense of their right to live. They are a loyal people who appreciate your outstanding deeds. Instigators and renegades will not be able to distort your noble mission, which you are performing with full faith and devotion. Doubters will not be able to undermine the great sacrifices that you are offering in the field of duty. You are fighting the Egyptian people's battle, protecting their livelihood, safeguarding their future, and defending their values and sacred ideals.

The national mission that you are performing honorably and bravely in defense of security and stability is a sacred one that surpasses every other duty. Egypt's stability is the guarantor of its progress, democracy, and survival; as a strong national entity, it is capable of standing fast in the face of the foreigners' ambitions and designs.

Brothers and sisters, in the absence of stability the chances of development and reconstruction dwindle, the burdens of problems increase, and the hopes for the present and future disappear. Stability means continuation of development and reconstruction in a secure climate that preserves the rights of all, enables every citizen to be sure about his future, and consolidates respect for the law as a dividing line between admissible and inadmissible things and between rights and duties. In the absence of stability, the chances for democracy disappear because democracy prospers and thrives through respect for law and order, but withers and dies in an atmosphere of violence and chaos. In an atmosphere of violence and chaos the dividing lines between admissible and inadmissible things are lost, the chances of economic and social stability disappear, the checks and controls that preserve the balance of interests among society's sections decline, and coercion and violence generated by a tyrannical minority of renegades prevail in an attempt to subdue society. In the absence of stability, the homeland's capacity to stand fast against foreigners' designs deteriorates. This instability erodes the unity of society, eliminates its cohesion, and opens the door wide to foreign conspiracies.

Brothers, sons, officers, and policemen: Your success in safeguarding the homeland's security and stability deals a fatal blow to the outlawed groups because it foils their dreams of impeding Egypt's progress or harming its democracy. More serious is that this success represents a severe blow to foreign schemes that aim to weaken the homeland's structure by exporting violence to the homeland and making it a profession, a trade, using religion as a vile method to seize power against the people's will.

The increasing awareness in the Arab and Islamic worlds of the dangers posed by the phenomenon of violence and terrorism underlines the possibility of containing this destructive phenomenon, which is harming the image of Islam and playing havoc with the stability of many Arab and Islamic countries.

At the Islamic Casablanca summit, Egypt's message to the Islamic world was frank, clear, sincere, and given for the sake of God. Its aim was to save the Islamic nation from the dangers to Islam and the defamation of it due to vile actions that have nothing at all to do with Islam. The outcome of this important summit was the unanimous agreement on (?drawing up) the correct policy course that bans all member states from encouraging terrorism or using the terrorist groups. But are their intentions sincere and will all of them rally to close down the sources of terrorism, or will we continue to find this vile contradiction between the words and deeds of some countries?

There is a growing demand in the Arab world for a similar charter of honor that commits the Arab League members to a serious and firm stand against this phenomenon. We are pinning great hopes on a serious pan-Arab effort aimed at extricating our Arab world from its present situation so that it can restore its solidarity and its confidence in joint Arab action and thus be capable of facing future challenges and ensuring a comprehensive and lasting peace where everyone's rights are treated equally.

The Alexandria summit between Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt was a serious step on the right course, and we hope that it will be followed by similar steps until reconciliation is achieved, the Arab atmosphere is cleared, and everyone's confidence in joint Arab action is restored.

In the international and Arab arenas we are backing a huge national effort to build the country, the ultimate objective of which is to ensure the continuation of the reconstruction process in a safe and stable atmosphere where everyone's contribution prospers, where all sectors of society can enjoy the fruits of development, and where the doors to honest work are opened to every young Egyptian. Achievement of this noble objective is contingent on the continuation of the democratic process within the right framework which balances rights and duties and opens wide the doors for everyone's participation in the reconstruction, progress, and prosperity process.

Brothers and sisters: Goodwill shall triumph because of a loyal and noble people whose mission is civilization and reconstruction. Peace will shall triumph because of the noble traditional Egyptian values that urge tolerance, reject devastation, and hate destruction.

God willing, Egypt will have a brighter future that will reward the glorious efforts now being made and will be commensurate with the great sacrifices made.

Our present achievements are strong and glorious and it is impossible for anyone to squander them. We have sound democracy, a free press, and a just judiciary. We have an open society that provides broad opportunities for all honest work. We have a strong Armed Forces capable of defending our dignity and maintaining peace. We have a patriotic police force that efficiently defends citizens' security and makes the necessary sacrifices toward that end. Above all, we possess a national will full of resolve that safeguards this homeland's status and keeps it strong, proud, and lofty. Our homeland does not bend before anyone except the one and almighty God.

The remnants of the forces of darkness will not succeed in hiding the light. The powers of destruction will not succeed in making the wheel of progress turn backwards.

The doubters and advocates of despair will not succeed in undermining our confidence in ourselves and our future. Our progress is following its proper course, guarded by Providence and the public's enlightenment. Our progress opens up the windows of hope, increases our strength, and raises our edifice higher still. It will, God willing, attain its objective of building a strong, just homeland that keeps abreast of world developments, contributes to humanity's future, and remains in step with the aspirations of the new generation.

I ask God Almighty to give us His assistance and support, to light for us the path of righteousness, and guide us to do what benefits the homeland. He is the best protector and supporter.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be with you.

Writer Scores U.S. Proposal on Israeli Promise To Sign NPT

NC2501213595 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "The Promise To Sign"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I do not believe that the reports about U.S. efforts to resolve the problem of Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] are acceptable to Egyptian or Arab public opinion. In addition, there is no certainty that these efforts, which news agencies say revolve around Israel's promise to sign this treaty, will be effective in finding a way out of this crisis.

To respond to this American initiative, we believe that Israel has for the past 24 years refused to sign the first agreement, which was ratified by 167 countries. Its excuse for that was that there was no peace with the Arabs. However, this excuse is no longer valid; it is null, void, and meaningless in light of the climate of peace reigning in the region bolstered by the peace agreement with Egypt.

The only thing that could explain Israel's continued refusal to sign the treaty or even delay it is the fact that it does not believe in this peace.

Israel has to prove its good intentions and real desire for stability in the Middle East region. This cannot be realized unless it abandons its insistence on its preferential status proceeding from the U.S. bias and pampering.

There has to be equality and fairness in dealing with the problems of the Middle East, whether it be the peace process or the problem of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Proceeding from the perspective of civilized behavior and a sense of responsibility, Egypt signed the first agreement. On the other hand, it is thanks to President Mubarak that two years ago the proposal was made to turn the Middle East into a nuclear-free region.

Within the framework of this crisis created by Israel, it was only natural that the request by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs—who arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday—would irritate me. His request was that no country should link its stand on the NPT with the stand of any other country on the same issue. Answering this strange request, we note that public opinion in Egypt views it as a continuation of the bias toward the Israeli viewpoint, particularly in matters related to national security.

I would like to make some issues clear here, namely that the peace we all aspire to is taking place under the threat of the Israeli nuclear deterrent, which is something we reject. If we were to go along with the U.S. view that Israel is ready to promise that it will sign the nuclear agreement, then I wonder why they do not also accept Egypt's promise to sign? If Washington is really worried about the development of the crisis Israel has created by escalating the situation in the Middle East through Rabin's statements and the refusal to sign the NPT, then it should use its pampering of the Tel Aviv rulers to convince them of the errors of their policy.

It has become necessary for the U.S. Administration to realize that it is now difficult to convince Egyptian or Arab public opinion to accept half-way solutions in this issue.

The solution to this problem now focuses on Israel's need to rid itself of its obsession with its preferential position and its hostility to peace.

Paper Details U.S. Pressures on NPT

NC2501203395 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. pressures on Egypt to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] have intensified.

Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, who participated with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in the meetings of the multilateral committee on following up the "Middle East" negotiations, which began yesterday, tried to imply that a lot of congressmen are linking Egypt's signing of this treaty to continuance of U.S. aid at its present level, $2.3 billion a year. News agencies carried his disapproval of the Egyptian stance. But Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa urged the U.S. official to ensure security for all the countries of the region on an equal footing and explained that there is no going back on Egypt's position and no signing of the NPT until Israel signs it.

At the same time, Yosi Beilin tried to depict the "Egyptian-Israeli" crisis as a "transient" one and to assuage the popular and official Egyptian anger at Rabin's threats and the document on punishing Egypt which was issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry. But his mission is not expected to succeed because Israel insists on not signing the treaty.

Strategic thinker Amin Huwaydi says he is 100 percent certain that there will be a war with Israel in the medium or longer term. The Arab Nasirite Democratic Party has issued a statement condemning the Israeli threats and has called for the following five-point action program:

1. To break the vicious circle of settlements which is tying the Arab will with the shackles of subservience and is backing the Israeli aggression in all its forms;

2. To exploit the atmosphere created by the Alexandria summit so as to prepare for an Arab reconciliation summit as soon as possible;

3. To freeze the agreements concluded with the Zionist enemy and to continue the efforts to halt normalization at the popular and official levels;

4. To remove the pressure lobbies working against pan-Arab security and national interests from all the state's establishments and leading positions in all fields;

5. To appeal to the Egyptian political leadership to take the initiative by holding a meeting that will include all the national forces and will draw up a pan-Arab action plan that includes all-out confrontation in any circumstance that threaten the existence of Egypt and our Arab nation.

On the other hand, our parliamentary correspondent Sa'id al- Shahhat has learned that the talks held by President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn in al-'Aqabah the day before yesterday, Saturday, dealt in part with an Israeli proposal carried by King Husayn to reduce the pressures on Egypt to sign the NPT. Husayn briefed President Mubarak on the Israeli argument on this issue, namely its claims that there is a need to create a balance in the region in order to face the dangerous Iranian support for extremism and to repel a possible Iraqi threat.

President Mubarak rejected the Israeli argument and stressed that the region must put an end to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction if "Israel" is serious in achieving full peace and that there is no change in the Egyptian stance which requires Israel's signing of the treaty.

Meanwhile Ambassador Badr Hammam, the assistant foreign minister, disclosed before the Consultative Council's Arab Affairs Committee on Sunday [22 January] night that the Arab countries have agreed on a united stance, namely not to sign the NPT as long as Israel does not sign it. But some countries reneged on this agreement only two weeks after it was reached.

Israel Said Using U.S. Congress To Pressure

NC2601102995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 26 Jan (MENA)—There are signs that Israel is trying to transfer the dispute that has recently emerged between Israel and Egypt to the American arena, informed sources at the U.S. Congress told MENA. The sources said that Israel is covertly trying, through its supporters in Congress, to pressure the Egyptian Government by hinting that U.S. annual aid to Egypt may be reduced.

Congress sources said the Israeli effort has intensified in the past few days, with Israel trying to promote the idea that there is no justification for linking the aid provided to Egypt with the aid provided to Israel. This has been the arrangement since the signing of the Camp David Agreement. Breaking the link will subsequently allow discussion of a reduction of the aid to Egypt without touching the aid to Israel.

The sources said pro-Israel members of Congress have begun selling ideas, such as Egypt is rapidly retreating from the "moderate" positions it has adopted since the signing of the peace agreement with Israel, and Egypt has begun to return to the positions of the fifties and sixties, adopting policies that "instigate" the other Arab countries.

The sources explained that the pro-Israel elements are implicitly promoting incomplete information about Egypt's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is due for renewal in April.

The sources said the campaign then moves to suggestions that Congress should not necessarily commit itself to the declared U.S. Administration position of retaining U.S. aid to Egypt in the fiscal year 1996 at its current level, a position that Defense Secretary William Perry was the latest U.S. official to emphasize when he visited Egypt earlier this month.

Informed diplomatic sources in Washington expressed their belief that Israel's attempt to move its dispute with Egypt to the American stage, particularly to Congress, where the pro-Israel lobby is very influential, is aimed at pressuring Egypt into retreating from its principled positions, especially its demand that the Middle East be freed from weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Israel is the only state in the region to possess them. There is also Egypt's support for Arab rights in the peace process and its insistence on the principle of land for peace to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The U.S. Administration is known to have said, more than once, that it will retain the level of annual aid to Egypt and Israel and it has committed itself to defending this position strongly when the draft budget for the next year is presented to Congress. Egypt receives $2.1 billion of military and economic aid from the United States annually, while Israel receives over $3.2 billion.

Paper Urges Third World Effort Against Nuclear Violations

NC2601075095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says Israel should not expect the issue of signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to pass easily this time, whether at the UN General Assembly or at the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In its editorial today the paper says that the issue of the Treaty, which was signed in March 1970, needs to be reconsidered, especially by small states that do not possess such weapons of mass destruction, so that they can feel safe and secure amid flagrant violations of the Treaty.

The paper calls on Third World countries to take a serious and firm position on Treaty violations by some states, especially after Israel's public announcement that it will not sign the Treaty, while expecting the Arab countries to sign it.

The paper notes that some countries, which are not superpowers, possess nuclear weapons obtained through secret or public assistance, as Israel has done for years. These countries intentionally leaked the news that they possess internationally banned nuclear weapons for their own objectives.

AL-AKHBAR also notes reports about Iran's persistent endeavors toward a nuclear arsenal to serve as an instrument of threat against the Arab countries in general and the Gulf states in particular. It also notes revelations of North Korea's attempt to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Brotherhood Denies Secret Talks With U.S.

MM2601120495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "'Brotherhood' Denies Secret Talks With Americans"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood group, denied yesterday the existence of secret talks or agreements between the Muslim Brotherhood and U.S. officials. [passage omitted]

Al-Hudaybi told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "There are no official or secret talks or agreements between us and any U.S. quarter." He wondered: "How can the Americans accept us, when their position toward Islam and those who belong to it is known?" He added: "Our doors are open to everyone. Anyone who comes to us is seen by everybody. All that has been reported about the Muslim Brotherhood's contacts with foreigners is no more than press interviews conducted in broad daylight and in front of everyone." He went on to say that the prosecution office has not leveled any accusation of committing or planning violent actions against any of the 27 Brotherhood leaders whom the prosecution has decided to put in prison—"which confirms that the Brotherhood has nothing to do with these actions."

Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, the prominent Brotherhood leader, has said that "there are people trying to drive a wedge between the state and the Islamic tendency." He told AL-HAYAH: "Is that our reward for issuing statements supporting the state's position against Israel and its [Egypt's] decision not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if Israel does not, and our support for Arab reconciliation efforts?" He added: "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat came to us and visited us in the offices of AL-DA'WAH magazine a few weeks ago with the state's knowledge and approval." He said that the arrest of Brotherhood leaders reflects the desire not to hold real parliamentary elections. "There is no need for the government to fear the Brotherhood's participation in the elections. All we are seeking is for the country to move toward building. Give us the chance to participate in the building process. The presence of a strong opposition is in the state's interests." [passage omitted]

Nasirite Party Statement Reported

NC2501210095 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 4

[Statement by the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nasirite Arab Democratic Party Confirms that the escalation in the Zionist threats to wage a comprehensive war on all fronts and to punish Egypt constitutes an accepted fact regarding the nature of the Arab-Zionist conflict, which is a conflict for our very survival. This entity has been a racial entity ever since its creation. It is an aggressive settlement-seeking entity whose objective is to completely eradicate Arab existence. The Party believes that so long as this conflict continues and the Zionist entity has a nuclear arsenal and military capabilities much superior to all the Arab countries, the result will be the emergence of the Zionist entity's designs toward the Nile's waters and the establishment of the Bahrain canal as an alternative to the Suez Canal. It will also persist in its occupation of Arab territories so long as there is no decisive and radical Egyptian and Arab approach to the situation. This handling should be based on the fact that the Zionist entity's capabilities do exist, and that they will continue and increase as a result of the strategic alliance between it and the traditional and modern forces of colonialism, headed by American colonialism. A major part of this confrontation consists of a decisive Egyptian and Arab stand on the role of these international forces in supporting the Zionists and the direct threats to Arab security and existence.

Proceeding from this, we need to confirm what we and all the national and patriotic forces have stressed all along: That the Camp David Agreement and the treaty of reconciliation between the Egyptian Government and the Zionist entity; the Madrid peace conference followed by the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the recent Jordanian-Zionist peace agreement and multilateral talks, as well as the Casablanca summit and the Middle Eastern arrangements, were all steps toward capitulation and group concessions by the Arab regimes of the holiest of rights. Nay, they even forfeited Arab existence itself, its identity, the dignity of the nation, the will of the people, and their independent decisions.

It became clear that everything that happened in the arena of the Arab-Zionist conflict started with the signing of the Camp David Accord. It was another stage of the American-Zionist plan, whose objective was to lead the Arabs into a maze of barren negotiations that have no end. Through these negotiations, the Arab stand will be anesthetized and frozen, Arab determination will be arrested inside the negotiation rooms on the pretext of confidence-building, and the Arabs will be stripped of their military abilities and forced to make greater regional concessions, while their economic concessions reach the stage of forfeiting national sovereignty (the Jordanian agreement) and shares in water and oil resources to the benefit of the Zionist entity. All this has taken place under the headline of a whimsical and fictitious peace process.

This scheme gives the Zionist entity total freedom to oppress the Arabs, Judaize the occupied Arab territories, encourage more Jewish immigration, expel the Arabs from their land, build settler colonies, and double the production of nuclear weapons and the missiles that carry them.

This has been accompanied by a state of Arab decline and inability to confront the escalating and hostile Zionist ambitions. The implications of this scheme have not been lost on patriotic, enlightened, and nationalist forces, notably the Nasirites. We have issued repeated warnings and used all our energies to protest and object to this twisted course to which our national and pan-Arab cause has been dragged. Ever since we started these protests we have been subjected to suppression by the ruling authorities.

The current national and pan-Arab impasse is a consequence of the erroneous policies and strategies in which the Arab rulers have become involved.

While our party believes that recent statements by Egyptian officials reflect a sound position on breaking events, it finds it necessary to bolster this new tendency with certain practical steps that emphasize Egypt's adherence to its independent national will and safeguard its national security by ensuring that all the necessary factors protecting it from threats are present.

In this connection our party believes that:

1. It is necessary to extract ourselves from the vicious circle which the United States describes as a peace

process but which actually is not even remotely connected with a just peace. It is merely a way of shackling the Arab will with the chains of clientship and at the same time assisting Israeli aggression in all its forms.

2. It is necessary to exploit the atmosphere created by the tripartite summit in Alexandria to achieve Arab reconciliation and prepare for an Arab summit conference to be held as soon as possible. This can be used to revive Arab solidarity and increase joint Arab endeavors to the level where we can confront the challenges and threats to the security of all the Arab countries.

3. It is necessary to freeze all the agreements concluded with the Zionist entity because it has been demonstrated that they pose a threat to Egyptian and pan-Arab security. There must also be a more active popular and official resistance to normalization as a safeguard against further Zionist infiltration.

4. The Egyptian state's institutions and leading posts must be reorganized in order to eliminate influential groups or individuals whose tendencies clash with national security requirements and interests.

5. The Nasirite Arab Democratic party urges the Egyptian political leadership to call a meeting of all nationalist forces to draw up a national plan capable of confronting all emergencies that might threaten the very existence of Egypt and our Arab nation.

Security Delegation Travels to Europe

NC2501183395 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-ranking security delegation left Cairo last week for a number of European countries. The objective of this visit is to track down the symbols and leaders of the terrorist groups residing abroad. Informed security sources told AL-'ARABI that the leaders abroad have started organizing cells to carry out new operations. What is helping the formation of these cells is the recent declaration of a merger between the leaderships of al-Jihad and the Islamic Group in an attempt to escape the negative effects of the successive security blows directed at the groups of violence.

AL-'ARABI has learned that this security delegation will concentrate on discovering the new hiding place of the leader Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim in Denmark. Last month reports were circulating about attempts to assassinate him.

Libya

UN Mission Provides Statement on Lockerbie

LD2601101195 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, 26 Jan (JANA)—In response to the numerous enquiries received by the Great Jamahiriyah mission to the United Nations, from reporters and correspondents of international news agencies, in respect of the report by the newspaper the 'Daily Record' which was transmitted by the B.B.C on the Lockerbie case, the mission issued a statement for generalization and circulation as follows:

The Great Jamahiriyah mission to the United Nations received several enquiries from reporters and correspondents of international news agencies regarding the report transmitted by the B.B.C, quoting the newspaper the 'Daily Record' on the Lockerbie case: In this respect the mission wishes to clarify the following: 1- The Great Jamahiriyah has confirmed, from the outset that the Libyan citizens suspected of the crash of the Pan Am flight 103 have no involvement what-so-ever with that incident. 2- Despite that belief, the Jamahiriyah compromised its right in holding the trial for the two suspects in the Jamahiriyah, in line with its judicial prerogatives. It agreed for the trial in the International Court of Justice in The Hague, before Scottish judges, in accordance to the Scottish law, with the aim of establishing the facts and proving the innocence of the accused, and upholding justice for the victims families.

We appeal to the Security Council to review its resolutions and lift the unfair sanctions imposed on the Libyan people which had caused heavy losses in life and in property, including the death of 157 persons, as a result of the crash of a Libyan airliner due to the shortage of spare-parts, and moreover the death of more than 2000 persons in road accidents due to the difficulty of transporting them to receive treatment abroad, in addition to the suspension of the development process thus incurring losses that exceed 4 billion dollars, all this as a penalty for an accusation that has nothing to do with Libya, the thing which is confirmed by reports and information published from time to time.

JANA Criticizes 'Intransigence' Over Lockerbie

LD2601100795 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, A'ina Al-Annar [January] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The British media reported yesterday that the Foreign Office still insists on its harsh and intransigent position in respect of Lockerbie.

Such position reflects the continued American and British policy of intransigence and rejection of any moves towards fair and just trial to establish the full facts in respect of Lockberbie.

Despite Washington's and London's persistence in not responding to the international will, by providing the evidences available to them instead of the misleading allegations and claims, vital legal evidence has emerged to vindicate the two suspects and confirm the involvement Washington and London in a cover-up observers have noted the clear confusion which characterized the reactions in London and Washington towards the crucial evidence offered by the American declassified document which had been exposed by the Panam lawyers.

Relatives of victims have expressed, through their spokesman Dr. Jim Swire their anger for the ruling out the new evidence by London and Washington. Dr. Jim Swire has denounced the Western intransigent position and called for a full public enquiry to establish the facts on Lockerbie.

Sudan

Rebel Group Dismisses 2 Commanders

AB2501162695 Paris AFP in English 1527 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By Luke Odhiambo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, Jan 25 (AFP)—The rebel South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) sacked two top commanders on Tuesday [24 January] after accusing them of collaborating with the Khartoum military junta and northern Ugandan rebels.

Addressing a press conference here Wednesday, Riak Machar's SSIM/A spokesman D.K. Mathews said SSIM/A deputy chairman Kerubino Kwanyin Bol and SSIM/A's chief-of-staff William Nyuon Bany had been sacked from their assigned positions, including command duty and responsibilities effective from January 24.

Mathews said that both commanders had been sacked "for signing a secret political and military negotiated agreement with the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime in Khartoum between last November 4 and December 18". The two were accused of opposing SSIM/A's cardinal principal policies of reconciliation and peaceful co-existence between the SSIM and John Garang's rival Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A).

Mathews said the two had also attempted to subvert and form a faction from some of the SSIM/A forces this month between January 8 and January 16 with the support of the regime in Khartoum.

Kerubino is currently commanding operations in the Bhar al-Ghazal region, where they have been recent reports of inter-tribal fighting between SSIM/A and Garang's SPLM/A factions, while Nyuon is commanding operations in areas bordering Uganda.

Nyuon was also accused of collaborating with Lord's Resistance Army currently operating against the regime of President Yoweri Museveni in northern Uganda, whom the Ugandan authorities have often charged were being backed by the Sudanese government to destabilise the regime in Kampala.

The move signals further rifts in the Sudanese rebel movement which initially took up arms in 1983 under John Garang's SPLM/A banner to end domination of the predominantly Christian and animist south by the Moslem, Arabised north.

In 1991, dissidents formed the SPLM/A-United under the commander of Garang's former deputy Riak, but Riak announced last September that the movement was dropping demands for greater autonomy in southern Sudan in favour of full independence, and changed its name to SSIM/A. But on December 22, dissidents announced that a meeting on December 22 had decided to continue the SPLM/A-United under the leadership of Commander Lam Akol as chairman and commander-in-chief, with Commander Arok Thon Arok as first vice-chairman and Commander Peter Saule as second vice-chairman.

Lam was one of the original founders and foreign affairs spokesman—number six in the hierarchy—of the old SPLM/A-United under Riak, but was fired from that position in February 1994 before disappearing from view among his own supports in the south, reemerging only in November.

On the other hand, Arok Thon resigned from the old SPLM/A-United in May after accusing Riak of "dictatorial" handling of affairs.

The continued splits have substantially weakened the southern rebels, enabling Sudanese government forces to overrun most of the rebel positions in the south during offensives early last year, a feat Khartoum is hoping to repeat in new offensives in the coming months.

Fighting Intensifies; Relief Workers Evacuate

AB2401201395 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, Jan 24 (AFP)—Relief agencies Tuesday [24 January] moved some of their workers from the southern Sudanese town of Nimule to Uganda, following an escalation of fighting between government troops and rebel forces around the town, UN officials said.

The decision to scale down relief operations around Nimule followed shelling of the town on Monday in which two civilians were reportedly killed, a statement from the United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) said.

Nimule is under the control of John Garang's faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The town has come under regular shelling, apparently from government forces, since January 15 and several shells fell near the hospital and airstrip.

The Catholic Relief Services and aid workers from the southern Sudanese Roman Catholic diocese of Torit will leave only a skeleton staff to continue with relief work in the area.

The relocation of relief workers has disrupted a meningitis vaccination programme by the Diocese of Torit, International Action Against Famine (AICF) and the

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which was started after an outbreak of the disease earlier this month.

Fighting has also disrupted relief activities in the northern Bahr el Ghazal province and around the town of Kapoeta in the Eastern Equatoria province.

The SPLA has been fighting Sudanese government forces since 1983 to free the mainly Christian and animist south from what the SPLA says is domination by the Moslem, Arabised north.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Announces Government Reshuffle

LD2401133895 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met in Carthage Palace with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. After the meeting, the prime minister announced that the president of the republic has decided to introduce a reshuffle of the government, under the terms of which he made the following appointments:

Abdallah Kallel—minister of state, special adviser to the president of the republic;
Mohamed Jegham—minister of interior
Mustapha Nabli—minister of economic development
Slaheddine Bouguerra—minister of industry
Slaheddine Ben M'Barek—minister of trade
Sadok Rabah—minister of social affairs
Habib Ammar—minister of communications
Slaheddine Maaoui—minister of tourism and handicrafts
Salah Bakkari—minister of culture
Mohamed Ali Ghanzaoui—secretary of state to the interior minister in charge of security.

Habib Lazrag, Mongi Bousnina, Mohamed Fadhel Khelil, and Rafik Belhaj Kacem will be called for other functions.

The prime minister added that the president has also decided to appoint Hedi Bessadok as head of the Constitutional Council, and Ismail Ayari as first president of the Audit Court.

RCD Political Bureau Changes

LD2501175095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at Carthage palace met Mr. Chedli Neffati, secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD], who, following the meeting, announced that the president of the RCD [Ben Ali] had decided that the structure of RCD's political bureau would be as follows:

Vice President	Hamid Karoui
Secretary-General	Chedli Neffati
Treasurer	Abdallah Kallel
Members	Habib Boulares, Mohamed Jeri, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, Sadok Chaabane, Habib Ben Yahia and Mohamed Jegham
Assistant Secretary-General	Ms Nabiha Zarrouk

New Heads of TAP, External Communications

LD2401173095 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique issued by the Secretariat of State for Information said that Mohamed Moncef Ben Temessek has been appoin Mahfoudh has been appointed chairman director general of the TAP agency.

Bahrain

Iranian Embassy Rejects 'Fabrication' on Detainees

MM2401170495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 95 pp1, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Over the past two days the Bahraini authorities released a new batch of the detainees arrested during the recent riots which occurred in some Bahraini villages and areas. An official source in Bahrain said yesterday that the new batch consisted of 25-30 people and was part of the drive to release all those not proven to be connected with the incidents.

The source expected the release of more detainees in the next few days.

The source reaffirmed that the security situation is completely stable and that business activities were not interrupted in any Bahraini areas.

The release of the new group of detainees was widely welcomed by the population of the areas which had witnessed acts of violence. The authorities concerned received numerous calls hailing the family spirit of the Bahrainis.

The Iranian Embassy in Manama yesterday issued a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, reacting to what AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported on Thursday [19 January]. The statement said: "Comment on what the paper published under the title 'Remaining Detainees Are About 400; Deportees Changed Their Destination From Tehran to London.'" It said that there were claims in the report prejudicing the work method of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Manama. It said: This embassy stresses that all that was reported in this connection was untrue and no more than "illusion and fabrication."

The embassy restated its firm belief that the so-called recent incidents in Bahrain "are a purely Bahraini affair."

The last remark appears to contradict a statement issued two days ago by an Iranian official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry in which he said that the Bahraini authorities should exercise self-restraint regarding what is happening in Bahrain. Gulf observers saw that as interference in internal affairs.

Kuwait

Government Expresses Regret Over Netanya Attack

LD2601104795 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The State of Kuwait expressed its regret at the Netanya attack last Sunday [22 January] which left a number of people dead and injured, but said at the same time it hopes this issue will not constitute an obstacle on the road of peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to KUNA, a responsible source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said that at a time when the State of Kuwait expressed its regret for the outcome of the attack on the bus station near Netanya last Sunday, which left a number of dead and wounded, it hoped that this incident will neither thwart the efforts aimed at promoting the peace process in the Middle East, nor constitute an obstacle on their path.

He added that the State of Kuwait hopes that tangible progress can be achieved on all the courses in a way which contributes toward reaching the desired and hoped for goals in establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the region in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions in this respect. [passage omitted]

Defense Official on Military Meeting With U.S.

LD2501200095 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meetings of the joint Kuwaiti-American military committee were concluded this morning under the chairmanship of Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, minister of defense. However, the minister of defense asked Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, chief of the general staff, to deputize for him.

The meetings were also attended by Major General Fahd Ahmad al-Amir, deputy chief of the General Staff; Frederick Smith, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense; Shaykh Muhammad Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States; and Ryan Crocker, U.S. ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

The meetings of the joint military committee began yesterday. They were chaired, on the Kuwaiti side, by the deputy chief of the general staff and, on the American side, by the U.S. deputy assistant defense secretary.

The meetings were an opportunity to examine the means for bolstering the defense capabilities of the State of Kuwait and securing cooperation between Kuwaiti and American forces.

Following the meetings, the chief of the general staff gave symbolic presents to the conferees.

[Begin al-Amir recording] Today's meeting of the joint Kuwaiti- American military committee was held to follow up the stipulations of the defense agreement between the State of Kuwait and the United States. This meeting follows previous meetings that were held in both Kuwait and the United States. Today, we are holding this special meeting in Kuwait to review signed agreements and rebuilding the Kuwaiti Army, as well as threats and their causes to come up with resolutions that will bolster the joint Kuwaiti-American cooperation. [end recording]

*Moroccans Said Not on Kuwaiti Side in Gulf War

95LH0061A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat. The visit that 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, made to Morocco aroused wide indignation among average Moroccans. On arrival, he surprised his welcomers with a declaration to the press saying that "Morocco supported the international alliance against Iraq in 1991." A number of newspapers that came out that same evening confronted him by announcing that this declaration is "an insult that Morocco does not deserve from him," and confirming that their country was and still is opposed to the aggression against Iraq. The Constitutional Union Party—the party of the speaker of the Moroccan Parliament, Dr. Jalal Essaid, host to the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and the accompanying parliamentary delegation—has on its part also denounced the aggression against, and the siege of, the people of Iraq.

The Kuwaiti agency KUNA made matters worse when it transmitted on Sunday [11 December] a news item about a reception given by Mr. Mohamed Dharif, chief administrator of the city of Fes, honoring Sa'dun and his accompanying delegation. KUNA stated that the chief made the following declaration to it: "The support of the Moroccan Government for the international alliance that expelled the Iraqi forces from the state of Kuwait sprang from the issue of applying the law and the new world order." The agency also stated that the chief had "demanded the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq?"

In the opinion of informed sources, the misrepresentation of this news item was caused by one of two possibilities. Either the chief stated one thing and another was attributed to him, since better than anyone, he knows that Morocco was not part of the international alliance in spite of the fact that it was ahead of others in its condemnation of the invasion and in dispatching symbolic forces to Saudi Arabia. Or the declaration was fabricated on the basis of utterances that were expressed as a courtesy and were not intended for publication, especially as Kuwait, who did not find a government or political functionary to "articulate" them, had decided to involve this man. The aim was to intimate to the Muslim countries, who will convene their summit tomorrow, Tuesday [13 December], in Casablanca that the host country supports the Kuwaiti position, which aims at making enmity toward Iraq and the maintenance of the siege of its people the topic of the hour.

*Rise in Narcotics Trafficking, Use Reported

95LH0059A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4 Dec 94 pp 90-93

[Article by Jasim al-Shamri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—Will the Kuwaiti society face a narcotic's crisis? This has become a pressing question, as every few days all Kuwaiti newspapers, or one of them, carry reports that the authorities have foiled an attempt by some people to smuggle narcotics into Kuwait.

In a statement to a local newspaper at the end of last year, Brigadier General Abdallah al-Faris, director general of the Interior Ministry's General Administration for Criminal Investigation, announced that they had foiled a plan to turn Kuwait into a transit station for smuggled narcotics. He based his statement on the quantity of narcotics seized since Kuwait's liberation, which far exceeded the capacity of the Kuwaiti market. Some narcotics, such as hashish—of which they seized about 1,000 kg—cannot withstand long storage. These facts raised suspicion that the narcotics were destined for distribution in all the Gulf states.

Although this old statement gives some sort of indication that Kuwait has become a big narcotic's depot, officials here insist that, while a problem does exist, it has not reached phenomenal proportions. In a statement to AL-MAJALLAH, Major Hamad al-Sari', director of the Interior Ministry's Anti-narcotics Department, said that the increase in the number of narcotic users has been small compared with what it was before the Iraqi invasion. Maj. al-Sari' described this increase as normal and said that it exists in all societies, because it is an international and not a local crime. He said that all the punishment and drug combating measures only aim to limit the spread of the crime and not end it, because achieving this is difficult. Nevertheless, Maj. al-Sari' affirmed that even this small increase is considered a problem and a worrying concern for the state authorities. He said that small quantities of narcotics are usually smuggled through airports. Whereas, huge quantities are smuggled via land or sea routes. Some people have begun to use private transport to smuggle narcotics by sea. He noted that the percentage of drug dealers among foreign employees is larger now than before the Iraqi invasion. This, however, does not mean that there has been an increase in the number of Kuwaiti drug dealers after the invasion. Because of a drop in the percentage of foreign employees, the percentage of Kuwaitis has increased. He pointed out that the percentage of all drug cases before and after the Iraqi invasion is almost equal.

He said that the authorities are concentrating their efforts to capture the smugglers and dealers. They view drug addicts as socially sick people, and enlightenment campaigns emphasize the need for such people to join drug rehabilitation programs. Maj. al-Sari' explained that addicts have begun using narcotics through injection. This is the newest problem in Kuwait. The usual way before the invasion was sniffing.

On the legal level, several Kuwaiti lawyers agreed that many drug cases have been heard by Kuwaiti courts in the past few years. Lawyer Najib al-Waqyan confirmed the existence of the problem, and said there are many drug cases. He added: The problem existed before the invasion. However, after the invasion the type of people involved in drugs has changed. Before, we were dealing with the same faces. Now we have people of different ages and social situations involved in drugs. Al-Waqyan added: Before the invasion, the people involved in drugs were professional dealers aged 30 years and over. Now, the situation has changed. The age level dropped to 15, 16, or 17 years. The reference here is to drug dealers in particular and drug takers. He attributed this to several reasons. The most important of these is the economic crisis that followed the invasion, which weakened moral values. The existence of the neutral zone between Kuwait and Iraq led to the establishment of a market through which huge quantities of narcotics entered Kuwait at the beginning of the liberation. The Iranian market, established immediately after the liberation, also played a serious role in the importation and distribution of narcotics. Fish was being sold at very low prices as a cover-up for drug trafficking. Al-Waqyan said that after Kuwait opened its borders, very large quantities of narcotics, enough for another 10 years, entered Kuwait. In view of the large quantities that entered from Iran and Iraq, storing narcotics became very common.

To prove what he said about the quantities of narcotics that are being seized, al-Waqyan said: In the past we used to be surprised when we heard that the authorities seized 80 grams of narcotics from a criminal. Now, it is different. It is very common to hear that a young man, not more than 19 years old, has been caught with more than 5 kg of heroin. Al-Waqyan emphasized that, nevertheless, the number of cases now has dropped compared with what it was in the period after the liberation. Perhaps the security authorities were then preoccupied with matters they thought should take priority, such as maintaining security and collecting weapons. This may have been the reason for the fast increase in narcotics then.

Lawyer al-Waqyan added that the drug crime in Kuwait is organized. There are seasons during which drug crimes increase, such as the period before the new year holidays, birthdays, during spring time, and after vacationers return from trips abroad. He said new types of narcotics, such as Iranian opium, that were unknown in Kuwait before, have appeared in the past four years.

Lawyer Khalid al-Nughaymishi said he had noticed an increase in this crime, because of the astronomical profits that can be made from narcotics. He said that drug marketing methods have been developing constantly. He said: We must make a distinction between drug users and dealers as far as age is concerned. The age of dealers is normally more than 30 years. The age of drug users is generally between 18 and 26 years. Most of the criminals have minimum education. Finding highly educated people committing such a crime is rare. Lawyer al-Nughaymishi attributed the increase in this phenomenon to the psychological shock the people experienced after many extremist Islamic movements supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This, he said, prompted young people to choose to court evil. He also attributed it to the appearance of many economic and political problems that affected the people; the fact that Kuwaiti young people frequently travel abroad and mix with all kinds of people in different countries; and the absence of supervision by the family and the Education Ministry.

Lawyer Sa'ud al-Subay'i said that the incredible increase in the number of drug users after the liberation has attracted his attention. He noted that most of the criminal cases he has handled involve drug users. Lawyer al-Subay'i added that the drug problem has affected all levels, including intellectuals, businesspeople, and the unemployed. He explained that the most important reason for this phenomenon, which is normally not a motive for committing this crime, is the financial standard. This raises many questions about the justifications for using drugs. However, he emphasized that drug traffickers use methods that depend on persuasion, and these are also among the reasons for addiction. He added that hashish and opium are the most common narcotics. An increase in the use of heroin has also been evident. Lawyer al-Subay'i said that one reason that encourages dealers to bring narcotics is the astronomical profit they can make. For example, he said, the price of a bag of heroin from the Eastern European countries is not more than 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars [KD]. They sell it in Kuwait for KD100,000. Al-Subay'i said he favors imposing the death sentence against drug traffickers.

Dr. Abd-al-Rahman al-'Asfur, director of the psychiatric hospital, said an addiction problem exists in Kuwait, but it is not as bad as in other Western societies. He said now is the right time to deal with this problem before it becomes worse. This demands efforts by many establishments in the state, such as the media, health, justice, and education. He said that the addiction center in the psychiatric hospital receives about 100 cases at its outpatient clinic every week. The number of hospital inmates is between 30 and 40 people. It is well known in the world that only 20 to 25 percent of drug addicts check into addiction treatment centers.

Dr. Asfur said that the age of addicts who visit the center varies according to the type of addiction material they use. People who use light narcotics are normally young people between 14 and 18 years of age. Addicts begin using heroin and other heavy narcotics between the ages of 19 and 20. The age of people who drink alcoholic beverages ranges between 40 and 50 years old. He noted that there is no established educational level for drug addiction. All depends on the social environment in which an individual lives. He added that he has noticed a slight increase in the number of addicts, particularly in the period immediately after the liberation. He attributed that to the ease with which a person could obtain narcotics then. He added that the security measures, which are becoming more strict, are helping to limit the spread of this problem. He said that he had noticed that most drug addicts mainly use heroin.

Dr. Asfur also explained that the center can receive addicts in three ways, according to the narcotic's law. These are: First, an addict must himself be convinced that he has an addiction problem and come willingly to the center for help. Second, his close relatives or employer can file an addiction suite with the attorney general's office, which will refer him to the center for treatment. No criminal case or precedent will be entered in his file. Third, a judge, according to law, can send an addict to the center for treatment instead of giving him a prison sentence. He said that many addicts come to the center willingly, some come following an addiction complaint, and very few are sent by the courts.

Dr. Asfur noted that a minor gap exists in the addiction law. The addict must sign an affidavit, pledging to stay in the center for three weeks. This is the period required by law to get rid of the poison in the body. He can leave the center after three weeks, and doctors cannot keep him in the center against his will. An addict rarely agrees to stay for a longer period. After three weeks, his body will be in the height of its need and desire for narcotics. So, if he leaves, he normally returns to his habit. Actually, the treatment of addiction requires three to six months, according to rehabilitation programs specially prepared for this purpose. The center, as I said, cannot legally keep a patient against his will. Therefore, about 90 percent of those who return to the center are former patients who did not complete their treatment and left after the first three weeks.

Narcotics are an international phenomenon and crime. The international community, with all its security and surveillance services, is trying to combat it. We decided to examine the problem in Kuwait for several reasons, the most important of which is that this is a small country, and anything that happens in it becomes public knowledge.

[Box, p 92]

Ibrahim al-Ghanim, director general of the General Customs Administration in Kuwait, has told AL-MAJALLAH that the customs administration uncovered 109 drug smuggling cases in 1993. Between 1 January and 31 August 1994, the administration uncovered 78 cases. He added that the number of air travelers caught smuggling narcotics is much higher than those caught smuggling through other outlets. However, the drug quantities seized at land and sea outlets are much higher than those seized at the airport. Al-Ghanim said that 80 percent of drug smugglers captured at the airport are drug users who carried very small quantities. Because of the nature of air travel, smugglers cannot carry large quantities of narcotics. However, smuggling large quantities of narcotics as cargo through land and sea outlets is more convenient. He noted that there has been a clear increase in smuggling operations and in the quantities of seized narcotics. This is a worldwide phenomenon. This phenomenon is particularly evident in the Gulf area because it is economically prosperous, its people's income is high, and its people are conspicuous travelers all over the world.

Drug Cases Considered by Kuwaiti Courts

Drug Cases		Type of Crime	
		Drug Dealer	Drug User
1989	Number of Cases	95	28
	Sentenced	70	33
	Acquitted	33	11
1992	Number of Cases	86	69
	Sentenced	114	70
	Acquitted	20	11
1993	Number of Cases	150	93
	Sentenced	263	101
	Acquitted	76	33

*Information Minister Said Facing Embezzlement Charges

95LH0061B Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 12 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] It is expected that the Kuwaiti minister of information, Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, will appear before an investigative committee of the National Assembly, which is currently in the process of being formed, to give his testimony concerning the "disappearance" of millions of dollars from the budget of the Kuwaiti mission to the United Nations, which he headed during the recent Gulf war in 1991.

AL-MUHARRIR has learned that there is a big crisis, surrounded by a veil of great secrecy, within the Kuwaiti Government, which has resulted from the accusation by National Assembly opposition deputies that the minister of information, his country's ambassador at the United Nations during that period, spent more than $250 million. Up until now, his mission has been unable to account for the manner in which most of it was spent and for what purpose.

A Kuwaiti economist who recently visited the British capital stated to AL-MUHARRIR that the information that has so far been gathered by the Assembly confirms that only $30 million is accounted for in the mission's ledgers. It was spent under the heading of "services to Kuwaiti refugees in the United States," while, additionally, more than $220 million was transferred in installments to the mission at the United Nations. No trace of it whatsoever has emerged in those ledgers. So far, the minister of information continues to refuse to supply the representative assembly with statements of account about the manner in which it was spent.

The Kuwaiti economist added that the Kuwaiti Government, who informed the speaker of the Assembly that this sum comes under the "secret expenditures mandated by the (Iraqi) occupation" headings is attempting not to reveal the American and international political and military circles who ended up with these huge sums so that they would stand with Kuwait during its crisis with Iraq. Strong rumors exist that American, Russian, and European leaders have received "ample portions" of those expenditures. This is in addition to international ambassadors at the world body and second and third grade diplomats during voting intervals on Security Council resolutions that relate to creating the atmosphere that preceded the allied aggression against Iraq, and to the resolutions that came after the war.

AL-MUHARRIR has learned that among the rumors are those that point accusatory fingers at the son of the former American President, George Bush, at General Colin Powell, the former chief of staff, and Norman Schwartzkopf, allied commander in chief during the aggression, and at former Secretary of Defense Cheney and top employees at the White House and the State Department.

If the Kuwaiti National Assembly were to insist on proceeding with its investigations, then the government would be threatened with the exposure of an important and risky part of its external expenditure during the war. It would especially be compelled to reveal the names of "bribe takers." Oil revenues played the major part in inducing them to plan the aggression against Iraq, as many major Western as well as Eastern politicians believe that a solution to the Kuwaiti crisis could have been reached without it.

It is worth pointing out here that the Kuwaiti minister himself might be subpoenaed before American justice to investigate the matter of bribes that he gave to some American functionaries and the false testimony that he was responsible for during the invasion of Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Leaders Seen Keen To Make Talks With Yemenis Successful

LD2601095295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0304 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—In their editorials today, the Saudi newspapers dealt with a number of important current issues on the Arab and international arenas. AL-YAWM newspaper pointed out that the nature of the recent Saudi-Yemeni talks on the outstanding issues between the two countries indicated clearly the existence of an agreement over the points of view put forward on the agenda of the talks.

It pointed out: Proceeding from the political constants adopted by the kingdom, the most important of which were the resort to political moderation and embracing the principle of dialogue as a sound option to settle difference in its dealing with Arab, Islamic, and friendly peoples, the prudent Saudi leadership was, and still is, very keen on stressing the resolution of the disputes with Yemen by cordial means through its desire to make its talks with the delegation from brotherly Yemen successful. [passage omitted]

Yemeni Speaker Comments on Talks, Border Issues

MM2501151395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Al-Ahmar Denies Sanaa Reservations Regarding Basis of al-Ta'if Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, chairman of the Higher Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, chieftain of the Yemeni Hashid tribes, and head of the Yemeni delegation currently in Riyadh, has emphasized that "the file of border differences and estrangement" will be closed forever and that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit and the summit meeting he will hold with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz will aim to resolve the differences between the two countries.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday he said that the settlement of differences, restoration of normal relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and the enhancement of amity, cordiality, and accord between the two fraternal neighbors were among the top priorities in the mission he came to Riyadh to accomplish.

Shaykh al-Ahmar denied rumors about a tendency toward holding a quadripartite Arab summit conference attended by the custodian of the two holy mosques, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for the conclusion of a final Saudi-Yemeni agreement on the settlement of border differences between the two countries.

He said: "This is the first I've heard about such a summit. I have not heard about such a tendency here or in Yemen, and the matter has not been raised during my presence here in Riyadh." He affirmed that the final resolution of Saudi-Yemeni differences will come from the expected summit meeting between King Fahd and President Salih. [passage omitted]

Shaykh al-Ahmar said that "Yemen seriously and sincerely wants to contain and resolve all differenaces between it and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." He stressed that "he found the same sentiments on the Saudi side." He added that "sincere goodwill on both sides will be a major and central factor in overcoming all the difficulties and obstacles blocking the return of accord, cohesion, and harmony between the two fraternal countries and peoples."

Shaykh al-Ahmar emphasized that "the Yemeni side has no reservations regarding the basis and principles of al-Ta'if border treaty signed by the two countries in 1934."

He was reacting to the claim that the Yemeni Government was rejecting that treaty on the grounds that it was signed in a past era and under a former government. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that the Saudi side insists on its position occupied in the seven rounds held by the joint border experts committee—the first was held in Riyadh 28 September 1992—that the treaty should be the basis of the negotiations for border demarcation between the two countries. But al-Ahmar emphasized the need for "flexibility" on both sides. He said that "such flexibility on both sides would be an essential factor for the success of the negotiations which began in Riyadh yesterday so that we may have a happy ending by signing a final agreement settling the border problem between the two countries." [passage omitted]

CDLR Bulletin on Saudi Events

MM2501151695 London CDLR MONITOR in English 16 Dec 94

[Bulletin No. 26, 16 December 1994, issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR; received by fax 23 Jan 95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right to Know...

King Fahd could not conceal the fact that the budget deficit for the next financial year will be in the region of 20 percent of the current budget. But will Fahd acknowledge other blunders? For instance will he admit that the Kingdom's debt amounts to more than 100 billion dollars?

Is he going to confess to the pledges made to foreign countries which pawn what little is left of our oil wealth for decades to come. Is he going to confess to the accumulation of debt by the private sector to the tune of 200 billion riyal? Is he going to confess that over 3000 contractors are still waiting for payments? Is he going to confess that the state has embezzled approximately 30 billion dollars from social insurance and pension funds? Is he going to confess that the average waiting time for companies to be paid is 9-12 months? Is he going to confess that the level of services in education, health, utilities telecommunication etc. has declined to their lowest level ever?

That which forced the King to confess after such a long-term policy of suppression of information will inevitably have a domino effect. What now emerges from the horse's mouth itself is that the Government lied to its people and to the world for many years on the basis of fraudulent figures and deceptive budgets.

Economists observed that the Kingdom banned any economic reports from 1981 and restricted itself to the declaration of a budget which is after all, only a forecast and an assessment of the year ahead.

Universities and institutions concerned with the international economy, such as the International Bank and publishers specialising in economic matters had to rely for their objective analysis on the Kingdom's dealings with the outside world, which is of course well documented. Their calculations and conclusions were based on the movement of imports, exports, balance of trade, balance of payments, terms of trade and above all they were supported by cumulative, empirical, and statistical economic data.

Despite this, economists generally agreed that the Kingdom is undergoing a severe economic crisis and that there are gaping loopholes in expenditure which cannot be accounted for. There are also gross discrepancies in revenues some of which are of unknown origin. Regarding the disequilibrium as far as expenditure is concerned, the economists unanimously agreed that the most likely explanation is the expenditure of the royal family. As for the imbalance in income the economists took the view that this could be due to the huge national debt. All the economists agreed, however, that information and details on the financial situation of the Kingdom are sadly lacking. To this subtle but clear signal that the economy was in a near terminal condition, The King and his brothers responded with disdain and derision. However, they were forced to admit the correctness of this analysis. They promptly blamed everything on the Gulf War!

Experts at one centre, GCES, the Global Centre For Energy Studies, delivered an implied rebuke to confirming factually that the Kingdom actually benefited more from the Gulf War than it had lost [sentence as published]. This irrefutable evidence was the revenue of the Kingdom from compensation from Iraqi oil sales for 4 years, and the relative rise in oil prices immediately after the war. The centre also refuted the claim of the Kingdom that it lost 60 billions dollars in the Gulf War, backing this up with the information that approximately 100 billion dollars were extra profit from the absence of Iraqi oil on the market.

An ailing economy cannot be treated by a "quick fix" of pain killers especially if the disease is well established. It requires accurate diagnosis and treatment. In this context the question uppermost in our minds is why did the value of military equipment contracts for the past decade amount to approximately 300 billion dollars? And why did the King build "The Magical Islands Palace" which cost 12 billion dollars? Why does he own 40 other palaces in the Kingdom, 36 of which he has not set foot in? Despite the fact that the state pays for all the maintenance, security, furnishing, staffing etc. on each and every palace? This also applies to all the property owned by other members of the 'royal family.' It is also necessary to explain Al Sa'ud's decision to turn down the railway project, and their insistence on maintaining their huge air fleet regardless of the horrendous cost.

Most disturbing of all is the fact that, why is the largest producer and exporter of oil in the whole world finds itself in such an economic catastrophe in a space of a mere two decades [sentence as published].

The problem is not the money, the problem lies with those self- appointed guardians of the national wealth. The authorities managed to drag us into such a humiliating state of impoverishment by a rare combination of embezzlement, incompetence and disastrous planning, that we are about to become the laughing stock of the world.

The answer is not reduced public spending especially at a time when the King is making extravagant gifts to himself, not mentioning the ownership deeds of the Magical Islands Palace which he is reselling to the state. The solution certainly does not lie in the wanton squander of public money on the upkeep of the properties of the 'royal family.' This outrageous obscenity, it must be remembered, is being perpetrated on the people who are rapidly becoming the new wretched of the earth.

Al-Thumamah Meeting

There was an important meeting of the King and his close brothers in Al-Thumamah recently. The committee learns that the top item on a troubled agenda was how to deal with the Committee and the challenge they present. The King and his brothers denounced with vitriolic bitterness the massive media campaign spearheaded by the Committee. The success of the Committee in attracting the attention of the international media is a devastating blow to Al Sa'ud.

The blinkered Al Sa'ud have been unable or unwilling to acknowledge that the fault lies with them. They have deluded themselves into believing that their media personnel are not rising to the occasion. In the end they opted for Sultan Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz's proposal to intensify confrontation with the reformers and to initiate a vigorous new media campaign to counter the media effectiveness of the Committee. An open ended budget was approved specifically for this project with emphasis on immediacy. Influential parasitical parties in Britain and America, their appetites whetted by the sight of this blood money, went into action promptly to falsify the situation. The Committee learns that Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz called in two Arab arms dealers notorious for their entanglements in conspiracies and large contracts with the Kingdom and with malleable and corrupt contacts in the western media, political and intelligence circles. Sultan ordered these mercenaries to spare no efforts to seduce the eminently corrupt and jaundiced Western media. Also invited to the Kingdom was the deputy manager of the largest public relations company in the world, which for a few million dollars was ready to prostitute itself in the service of the 'ROYAL PIMPS' and spies. This deputy may have been at a meeting with Sultan and Salman the two men previously mentioned.

Prince Nayif's Interview

Even we were absolutely astonished when we read Nayif's absurd statements in the Independent newspaper. We are well used to the crass stupidity of Al Sa'ud but never believed that even Al Sa'ud could sink to the level of the sewer. Nayif's statement confirms his short sightedness and his indiscretion. Nayif believes that by threatening British Government interests in the Kingdom, he would paint them into a corner over the Committee. His actions however backfired. For Nayif the committee is like a red rag to a bull. This accounts for his insane disregard for the elementary diplomatic niceties, and crudely threaten a suspension of business and commercial relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia [sentence as published]. This gave the game away—the 'royal' family are well at sea. Nayif's ill tempered effusions contradict his and his brother's claim that the Kingdom was stable, and that Al Sa'ud are very much in control and that the Committee has no support. Nayif even tried to frighten the readers of the Independent newspaper into believing that the committee were on the same level as the Islamic 'terrorists' of Algeria. Secondly, Nayif's statements also expose the contradictions present within Al Sa'ud.

Sa'ud al-Faysal said a few days ago that the British Government decision in the Dr. al-Mas'ari case was an internal matter which had nothing to do with Saudi Arabia. Is this because Sa'ud al- Faysal and Nayif disagree, or is it the inability of the latter to recognise the deep divisions within the ruling class family. The Kingdom has secretly pressurised the British government, so why embarrass the latter now? The secret pressure was much more effective. In view of Nayif's folly, the Dr al-Mas'ari case has become a cause celebre with a clear challenge to British sovereignty and public opinion. The Tory government would have appeased the Saudis, in secret of course, but now that Nayif has put his foot into it, this is no longer possible. This own goal can only be explained by Nayif's disturbed psychological state.

Response to British Decision

The most promising response to the British Home Office decision of refusal of asylum for Dr. al-Mas'ari was the championship of his case by a group of MPs who invited Dr. al-Mas'ari to Westminster for a meeting which focused on the Committee's programme and the rotten state of the regime in Saudi Arabia. The MPs were impressed to the extent that one of them promised to call a general meeting in Westminster after the Christmas and New Year holidays, inviting MPs and members of the public to talk to Dr. al-Mas'ari.

The Saudi authorities immediately advised some of their diplomatic friends to noble [as published] the MP who promised to arrange the meeting. Apparently they were successful. In contrast about 40 MPs signed a letter protesting the decision of the Home Office, in the al-Mas'ari case. The number of MPs identifying with this petition is expected to increase. The House of Al Sa'ud may well say of Nayif that with "friends like thisthere is no need for enemies."

News

A Bleak Future

Since the doubling of electricity bills, the fine for non-payment of bills has increased five times in one go, with no previous warning.

NEW ARRESTS

Arrests continue unabated in all areas of the Kingdom. In Riyadh, Dr. Sulayman al-Rashudi, a lecturer in the King 'Abd-al- 'Aziz University of Science and Technology, was arrested and taken to an unknown location after the usual assault on his house and office.

Also in Riyadh, a young man 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nafi' was arrested in a similar manner.

A businessman, Shaykh Ibrahim al-Huzaym, was also arrested after his shops and home were searched with the customary rigour. In Buraydah, 'Ali al-Dubaykhi, a teacher, in Buraydah, was arrested and taken to prison after all the usual humiliating procedures.

In 'Unayzah, Shaykh Fahd al-Khushayban was also arrested, while in al-Bahah, the Imam Shaykh Muhammad al- Shakir was taken into custody simply because he had talked about patience being a virtue in times of hardship.

In Abha, another young man, 'Abdallah al-Jabiri, was arrested. The sinister Khalid al-Faysal contacted al-Jabiri's family and warned them on pain of severe punishment, against any attempt to contact al-Jabiri or to protest his arrest. Anyone caught doing so would face tough penalties.

In the Eastern area, three people were arrested and in al-Ras city, six people were detained indefinitely. Their names will be supplied to the Committee soon.

The Increased Decline in Security

The level of security in some cities in the Kingdom has declined to an unprecedented level. For instance, in Medina a girl was nearly kidnapped in a shop, in front of many citizens. One brave young man at considerable risk to his own safety, prevented her abduction.

Also, in Medina, two criminals attempted to break into a house intending to rape the wife of one of the students. This crime was also prevented by some altruistic individuals.

Two weeks ago, two men managed to abduct a woman in front of a crowd, in Jeddah. The woman was returned after a week of abuse. Despite the fact that the identity of the criminals was an open secret, the two men were not questioned let alone arrested. The family happened to be close to Al Sa'ud. In Medina two people surprised the bursar of the Islamic University when they hit him on the head with an axe. He was seriously injured, but we are not in a position to report on his fate. The two men escaped with a large sum of money. The situation in other areas such as 'Ar'ar, al-Jawf, Rafha and al-Hafar is even worse.

The Prince of Qasim—is he a partner?

The Prince of Qasim personally intervened and authorized the release of one of the heads of a vice ring in Qasim. This criminal employed many female "servants" who prostitutes themselves for 15500 riyals a month.

The women made a complete confession as did the pimp himself, but soon afterwards he was released by order of the Prince.

This is a normal occurrence in many cities of the Kingdom, especially Riyadh.

Prince Swallows al-Juwayza Estate

The people of al-Juwayza Estate in Jeddah were suddenly told to evacuate their houses immediately. Tractors moved in and demolish their houses and a child was suffocated to death under the rubble. The people of the estate, forced to leave, found out later that the estate had been granted to one of the Princes, who was present during the demolition along with the mayor of Jeddah and security men.

The Prince Comes First...

In the al-Jisr estate in Thuqba in the eastern area the residents joy at the news that there were to be more telephone services for their estate was short lived, when all the extra lines intended for the estate were commandeered by the private estate of Prince Turki Bin-Nasir.

Al-Hada People Seek Help Again

The people of al-Hada wrote again to the Committee about their suffering at the hands of Al Sa'uds who forcefully confiscated most of their land and banned them from building there whilst Al Sa'uds palaces have been built all over the area.

Royal Gift

The "Custodian of the Two Sacred Mosques" distributed royal gifts to the Hijaz tribes. These gifts were so "extravagant" that people wrote to us to convey their deepest gratitude to the Custodian. The gifts were not less than 25 Riyals and did not exceed 35.

The Mosque of Barzan Awaits

The building of the central mosque of Barzan in Ha'il was disrupted after the Government failed to pay the contractor. Many people volunteered to pay the debt for the mosque to be completed but they were ordered not to do so.

The Necessity and The Crime...

In all ports of entry into the Kingdom the acceptance of bribes from drug smugglers is widespread. Investigation revealed that most of the people involved were suffering severe financial hardship. No 26 , Fri 16 Dec 1994

Yemen

Saudi Arabia Said Massing Forces Along Yemen Border

NC2501214995 Paris AFP in English 2125 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Jan 25 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has massed troops, tanks and missile batteries near the disputed border with Yemen, Yemeni political sources and diplomats here said Wednesday [25 January].

The buildup in the region of Sada in the northwest of Yemen occurred late Tuesday [24 January] and early Wednesday, the sources said requesting anonymity.

Saudi and Yemeni officials have been meeting for the past three days in Riyadh in a bid to settle their border dispute.

Troops Advance to 2 Miles From Border

NC2601090095 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Jan 26 (AFP)—Saudi troops have advanced to within three kilometres (two miles) of the Yemeni frontline on the two countries' disputed border, a senior military official here said Thursday [26 January].

The Saudis, who have reportedly massed troops near the border since late Tuesday, are now "three kilometres from our first lines of defence," the officer in the Yemeni army told AFP.

The renewed tension on the border coincides with negotiations in Riyadh to find a settlement to the territorial dispute.

Security Forces Disperse 'Peaceful' Demonstration

JN2501161295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni security forces today dispersed a peaceful demonstration in Aden calling for the freedom of the press and arrested some demonstrators. The demonstration was organized by a committee supporting the Aden-based AL-AYYAM newspaper, which was indirectly suspended early this month when the printing press of the state-run 14 OCTOBER newspaper declined to print the AL-AYYAM newspaper, which is close to the opposition, on 4 January citing a technical failure though it continued to print other newspapers.

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks With Syria

JN2601101695 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 26 Jan 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Sahhaf has revealed that Syrian-Iraqi meetings on the technical level, which deal with the waters of the Euphrates River, are being held in Damascus and Baghdad alternately. Al-Sahhaf said that these meetings fall within the framework of the two countries' united stand toward the issue of sharing the waters of the Euphrates River, from which Turkey seeks to take a large share, thus violating international agreements in this regard.

The minister made these statements to AKHBAR AL-USBU' before leaving Amman for Baghdad earlier this week after participating in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee recently held in Ifrane, Morocco.

He said that official Iraqi delegations are taking part in Arab and regional meetings held in Damascus. He added that official Syrian delegations are taking part in meetings held in Baghdad. However, he denied press reports published in Amman about a meeting between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Sahhaf stressed Iraq's concern about developing inter-Arab relations. He praised the progress achieved in the relations between Iraq and some Gulf states and noted that Iraqi-Gulf relations continue to progress.

He also called on Kuwait to forget about the past and to develop its relations with Iraq because this will serve the interest of the peoples of both countries.

Al-Sahhaf said: The fact that the Kuwaiti Government welcomed the UN Security Council's decision to continue sanctions against Iraq indicates that Kuwait has no desire to develop its relations with Iraq. Asked about the political situation in Iraq, he said that the situation is excellent and strong and that the leadership and the people are cohesive. He noted that those who are talking about instability in Iraq are trying to cover up the deteriorating situation in their own countries.

Responding to a question about the blockade imposed on Iraq, al-Sahhaf said: The blockade will soon be over. A date for ending the blockade cannot be determined, but the blockade will end some day. He added: The losses as a result of the blockade are increasing and the Iraqi Government does not have the money to buy foodstuffs.

He said that the results of the Jerusalem meetings were in Jordan's favor, noting that nothing practical took place in these meetings. The participants discussed the idea of establishing a fund to support Jerusalem, which Israel is daily swallowing up.

PUK Chief Receives U.S.-Turkish Delegation

NC2501171195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-level U.S.-Turkish delegation, accompanied by Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, today visited the office of brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]. The delegation was received by PUK Political Bureau members (Nashurwan Mustafa) and (Qaydun 'Abd-al-Qadir); Mulla Bakhtiar, member of the PUK Command Committee; (Shadi al-Huwaydi) alternate member of the PUK Command Committee; and (Sa'di Ahmad Khayrah) and Shaykh (Muhammad Bardawil).

The visiting delegation consisted of (Joseph Bates) from the U.S. State Department, (Richard Macey) from the U.S. Embassy in Turkey, and (McCormack), political adviser to the commander of the Poised Hammer forces at the Turkish Ancerlik base, and (Ercan) from the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

At a meeting between the two sides, (Joseph Bates) explained the U.S. Government's attitude toward the problems of the Kurdistan region, especially the current fighting there. He indicated that the U.S.-Turkish delegation's unanimous feeling is that it is necessary to resolve the current problems and issues in Kurdistan.

Brother Jalal Talabani then welcomed the members of the visiting delegation, pointing to the PUK leadership's peaceful stands and intentions and affirming the PUK's permanent readiness to halt the fighting. He also explained the attempts and efforts made by the Kurdistan political parties, forces, notables, and leading figures to end the fighting. He indicated that the PUK is fully prepared to positively respond to these mediations efforts.

Regarding the U.S.-Turkish delegation's peaceful efforts, brother Talabani expressed the PUK's sincere readiness to end the fighting and establish peace in Kurdistan.

Airspace 'Violation' Protested to Arab League

NC2001182995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has sent a memorandum to the Arab League's General Secretariat on the violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft last week. In his memorandum, Dr. Najm states that the number of air flights in violation of Iraq's airspace totaled 481. The Iraqi delegate called on the Arab League to pass the Iraqi memorandum to all member states and emphasized that these flights constitute a flagrant violation of international law.

'Violations' Protested to United Nations

JN2501135595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 25 Jan (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations against the U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace for purposes of observation and provocation.

In a memorandum yesterday to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent UN representative said between 11-20 January, the U.S. aircraft carried out 695 aggressive sorties. In addition, the aircraft conducted several reconnaissance flights and others to break the sound barrier.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that the memorandum be circulated as a Security Council document.

UN Envoy Protests U.S. 'Aggression' Against Water Tanker

JN2401111795 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Jan. 24, INA—Iraq has vehemently condemned the fresh American aggression against the Iraqi al-Tharthar water tanker.

In a letter to U.N. Chief Dr. Butrus-Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's U.N. ambassador said that the repetition of these illegal and aggressive acts by the U.S. Government conclusively confirms the aggressive intentions against Iraq and its persistence to violate Iraq's national sovereignty, the U.N. Charter and international law.

The ambassador made it clear that on the 19th of this month the American frigate No. 48 carried out an aggressive operation by landing 19 armed military men on al-Tharthar water tanker.

Iraq urged the U.N. chief to exert further efforts in accordance with his legal responsibilities to stop the repetition of such provocative aggressive acts.

The Iraqi water tanker was the target of two similar provocative acts by the U.S. Navy forces.

Opposition SAIRI Leader al-Hakim Interviewed

MM2501131095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 95 p5

[Interview with SAIRI Chairman Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim by 'Adnan Husayn in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Though four years have lapsed since the defeat of the Iraqi regime in the Gulf War and the popular uprising that followed, the regime continues to exist and the opposition has failed to change it despite the fact that the regime has plummeted to the lowest degree of weakness. At the same time, signs are looming now in the regional and international fields of initiatives for normalization of relations with it, which indicate that it has been regaining strength anew. Has the opposition lost all opportunities to change it?

[Al-Hakim] I must affirm first that those seeking normalization, be they internal or external circles, are committing the same mistake again. This regime is aggressive by nature and would never abandon its aggressiveness. As this aggressiveness, in addition to the absence of the people's role in decision-making and the lack of legal and constitutional guarantees, has been the cause of all that has happened to Iraq and to its neighbors, the tragedies of the past will happen again as soon as Saddam Husayn regains its energies which are essentially based on money. He will buy and manufacture all that he needs of the weapons of revenge from those who stood against him in the past.

As to the internal situation, I still believe that there are great opportunities for the Iraqi people and the Iraq opposition to bring about the required change. But these opportunities require investment from the opposition forces, particularly those who have real potential inside Iraq. This investment rests on unified coordinated action internally coupled with political action in the regional and international spheres.

[Husayn] Do we understand from this that the absence of opposition unity has been the reason for the continued existence of the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Hakim] There are a number of reasons, of which the lack of unity is one. Another reason is the lack of clarity of the opposition's policy toward the regime and toward the international community as well as the lack of practical steps in that policy. For while some people place the external movement above the popular internal movement, others ignore the external dimension and confine the issue to the internal movement. I believe that the integration of these two dimensions would insure the success of this operation.

[Husayn] There are some who believe that the external factor has played a major role in keeping Saddam Husayn in power and it is due to the regional and international forces' fears of Iranian interference in the Iraqi situation and the occurrence of internal conflicts: Arab-Kurdish and Shiite-Sunni conflicts. According to this premise, this was the reason that prompted some forces to prefer the current weak regime to a fragmented opposition that lacks unified objectives.

[Al-Hakim] We believe that these fears, which do exist, are unrealistic and artificial. They are disseminated by some quarters for reasons other than their declared reasons, while others raise them, though not out of conviction, because they are affected by the influence of the dominating forces.

Fear of a partitioning of Iraq has no realistic basis inside Iraq. The Kurdish area is surrounded by three countries which could simply block all outlets for the Kurds. The three countries, namely Iran, Turkey, and Syria, are in full agreement on not permitting the partitioning of Iraq. They have been holding periodic meetings among themselves to affirm this. Thus the Kurdish area cannot separate itself from Iraq because the aforementioned three countries could prevent this by blocking all outlets around it.

As I have said on recent occasions, the Kurdish leaders are fully aware of this fact, and for this reason they look to the resolution of the Kurdish problem within the framework of Iraq and within the framework of the solution of the problem of the political regime in Iraq.

As regards the South, there is no Iraqi political movement there calling for separation from Iraq. Furthermore, the Shiites do not live in the south alone but also in the central and some northern regions. There are Sunnis living in the south too, and they never had any conflict with the Shiites. There is also no conflict between the Shiites and the Sunnis of Iraq so as to prompt any side to seek separation.

[Husayn] What about fears of Iranian interference in Iraqi affairs, particularly in the south?

[Al-Hakim] In my opinion, what is being said in this regard is no more than some sort of psychological terrorism. But it has no basis in reality. Because the Iranians have had unique opportunities for interference had they wanted to, yet they did not interfere. The biggest opportunity took place during the popular uprising which took place four years ago, when 13 Iraqi provinces (out of 18) departed from the regime's control. The majority of these provinces are situated on the borders with Iran or in close proximity to them.

Had the Iranians had any intention to interfere, they would have seized this opportunity and they would have succeeded without any difficulty, particularly since Iran would not have lacked justification for such an action: There is the justification of the eight-year war; there is also the justification of the abominable acts committed by the regime's forces against the inhabitants of the provinces that declared the uprising, and the justification of the 1.5 million people who fled Iraq and crossed the borders in one batch. In short, there were many pretexts the Iranians could find for interference. But in the event they did not interfere. Indeed, they closed their borders with Iraq instead. This is a fact that was recognized by even the international forces.

[Husayn] But there were reports then about an actual Iranian interference?

[Al-Hakim] It was the Iraqi regime alone that persisted in disseminating such reports in order to frighten Iraqi internal circles and regional and international quarters. The Iraqi regime continues to disseminate these rumors to spread fear, weaken trust in the opposition, and safeguard its own existence and continuation in power. But in spite of all this, it is the duty of the Iraqi opposition to work seriously to expound the facts and reassure the quarters concerned.

[Husayn] How then do you explain the failure of attempts to establish security exclusion zones for the people of the south akin to the security exclusion zone established for the Kurds in the north? There were three opportunities, at least, for the establishment of such a zone, but nothing was done. Could not the reason for this be the aforementioned fears?

[Al-Hakim] I will reiterate that all these fears have no foundation whatsoever. If some quarters are persisting in disseminating them, I believe that is due to false illusions which some quarters might be anxious to instill for other reasons. I am entirely certain that the fears of Iranian interference are artificial and unrealistic. This is because the intention to interfere does not exist. Personally, I believe that the spreading of these fears is intended as a cover for the lack of desire to see the Iraqi people become masters of themselves and rule themselves by themselves.

The reason for the nonestablishment of a security exclusion zone in the south is not connected with these fears alone. There are other reasons which prevented the establishment of such a zone, such as the lack of the great material resources needed for such a project; and such as the opposition of some Arab countries which saw the establishment of a security exclusion zone as some sort of interference in the internal affairs of an Arab country. There are also the fears of some people that this action would set a precedent which some feared.

[Husayn] It was stated recently that some Iraqi Shiite personalities and movements, including the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution [SAIRI], which you lead, have had contacts with Western governments, including the U.S. Administration, to reassure them and alleviate the fears we have spoken of. Does your current visit to London fall within this context?

[Al-Hakim] We began contacts with international circles and quarters 10 years ago. This is being done according to a specific method. We started with human rights issues and contacted all the organizations and institutions concerned with this matter. We have also made moves on the level of the United Nations and its organizations and institutions to expound the cause and ordeal of the Iraqi people. The aim of all this was to explain the tragic conditions under which the Iraqi people are living and expose the regime and its practices and mobilize world public opinion's support for the Iraqi people in their struggle to rid themselves of the regime.

In the political sphere, we had contacts with the fraternal and neighbouring countries. We visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Kuwait and met with the Turkish prime minister. As to my current visit to Britain, it has no official character and its aim is to contact our brother Iraqis who live here as well as contacting British popular and media circles and the political circles connected with the popular opinion to achieve the same objectives that governed our past movements. But what was said about contacts with the U.S. Administration is not true.

[Husayn] It has been stated that some personalities, of whom some are represented on the Assembly, have had contacts with the American Administration.

[Al-Hakim] Some of the brothers might have done so in their personal capacity.

[Husayn] What stops you from establishing contacts with the American Administration since the United States has become one of the countries that has an influential and decisive role in regard to the Iraqi issue, at least for the time being? Is this due to you or to the Americans?

[Al-Hakim] This is due to our political evaluation and conditions. Every move we plan and carry out, we accord it a certain space.

[Husayn] Since a year or more ago, the Iraqi and Iranian Governments have embarked on efforts to normalize relations between them, and the Iranians seemed the more eager in this regard. The scope of relations between the two countries has expanded and included secret relations as Iran now sells oil for the account of the Iraqi Government, a matter which aroused questions and doubts within Iraqi opposition circles, and in particular Islamic circles, about the effect this normalization will have on Iran's relations with the opposition. What are the scopes of this normalization?

[Al-Hakim] I said about six years ago, and this seems to hold true even now, that this relationship can only be limited. This is because the Iraqi regime is incapable of developing such relations. Iran might desire to have relations with the Iraqi people due to the strong historic relations that bind the Iranian and Iraqi people together. Furthermore, besides Iran, there might be some Islamic forces which are thinking of establishing some sort of relations with any regime in Iraq for the same reason, namely, the establishment of relations with the Iraqi people. But the problem lies in the fact that the present Iraqi regime is incapable of developing such relations.

[Husayn] It is being said, among other things, that when the Iraqis and Iranians discussed the question of the normalization of their relations, they considered that one of the essential conditions for this was the adoption of reciprocal measures to curb the activities of the Iraqi opposition in Iran and the Iranian opposition in Iraq, that is, curbing the activities of the Mojahedin-e Khalq in return for the curbing of the Iraqi Islamic movements including the SAIRI. It has also been said in this context that Tehran pressured you personally and played a role in weakening the armed movement in al-Ahwar area and keeping the Mojahedin away from the border areas. What is the truth about this?

[Al-Hakim] These reports are either not true or are exaggerated. Anyway, Iran is bound by international law and the UN to prevent infiltration from its territory into Iraqi territory. But the borders between Iran and Iraq are very long and extensive. Many world countries suffer from the problem of controlling movement on their borders with their neighbors, such as the problems of the smuggling of goods. As to what is said about the exertion of pressures on me, that is not true. For here I am free and enjoy freedom of movement and travel and nothing stops me from movement.

[Husayn] Some Iraqis, including some who are friends of the Iranian regime, accuse the Iranian Government of mistreating the Iraqis living in Iran, particularly the refugees and those forced to flee from Iraq. They say that the Iranian Government has not performed even the minimum of its duty toward them, on the grounds that a large section of them migrated to Iran or were forced to seek shelter there because of their opposition to the war against Iran and to the entire policy pursued by the Iraqi regime against Iran since the establishment of the revolution there. Incidentally, the UN High Commission for Refugees has recently criticized Iran for mistreating the Iraqi refugees.

[Al-Hakim] There are several aspects to this issue. Firstly, the UN organizations concerned with the refugees have been remiss to a great extent in their duty toward the Iraqi refugees. We have constantly asked them to perform their duties and jobs in this regard. For example, all that these organizations have paid Iran in aid for the refugees throughout the past years was $15 million, which is nothing compared to the large number of Iraqi refugees in Iran.

Secondly, Iran does not have sufficient capabilities to create adequate conditions for this very large number of refugees, particularly as it has a similar number of Afghan refugees. In my opinion, any attempt to judge this matter must be based on comparison between the conditions of the refugees in Iran and those in the other countries. I believe that any fair person embarking on such a comparison will find that the conditions of the refugees in Iran are better than the conditions of the refugees in other countries.

Thirdly, and this aspect is connected with Iraqi refugees' expectations from Iran. For they expected that the Iranian Government would do a great deal for them in view of the common bonds that bind them and Iran and its people, particularly as some of them belong to tribes which bestride both sides of the borders. As far as I know, the Iranian Government tried hard to provide care for the refugees, but its efforts continue to be governed by its limited resources.

As regards the criticism leveled by the UN High Commission for Refugees, they fall within the framework of the tricks it resorts to to cover up its own failures in this regard.

[Husayn] The realization of some sort of unity among the Iraqi Islamic opposition movements has been one of the matters of interest to you, but so far nothing has been accomplished in this respect. We hear from some of the activists in these movements that the reason for this was the attempts by the SAIRI in general and you personally in particular to control and dominate these movements. What do you say to that?

[Al-Hakim] We believe that the SAIRI is united and embraces personalities from the various sides, who plan and participate in its activities. My current visit to Britain provides the proof of this. All the Islamic parties have played a role in respect of this visit, its arrangement and its support. There are now joint committees consisting of the various sides within the Assembly, working on the drawing of strategies, formulating stands and performing all sorts of functions. Discussions are also taking place among the various Islamic sides for the formulation of a unified method of action. Weekly meetings and sessions are held. As to what you have spoken of, these are statements made by some people, but, as far as I know, there is no such talk in the official circles of the Islamic movements.

[Husayn] It seems there is a conflict at present over the post of the "Source of Emulation" [Marji' al-Taqlid] in the Shiite creed. Sometimes, this conflict seems to take a political character, such as an Iraqi-Iranian, an Arab-Persian or an [Iraqi] Najaf-[Iranian] Qom conflict. There is some sort of division among the various parties concerned in this respect. Some favor support for Montazeri's Source of Emulation in Qom while others favor that of Al-Sistani in Najaf. The Iranian Government on its part exerted efforts to consolidate that of Khamene'i. What is your position in this conflict?

[Al-Hakim] I believe the talk about a conflict is somewhat exaggerated, and sometimes seems to stem from self-interest. In short, to the Shiites, the question of the Source of Emulation is a matter of personal choice. From a religious point of view, everyone is obligated to ask those in the know about whom to choose as a source of emulation for himself. This process is akin to that of a sick man choosing a doctor whom he frequently consults on health matters. For this reason there was always a multiplicity of sources. The general source crystalizes gradually from amongst these sources to emerge as the supreme source of emulation for the region. Now there are sources of emulation in Qom, Najaf and elsewhere. But there is no such conflict. The matter takes its natural course. The religious criteria are what govern the individuals' choice of the source of emulation. Khamene'i himself has spoken about this matter, and in my opinion, what he said was realistic and serious.

[Husayn] But the information media and some of the official institutions have been insisting on granting the post of source of emulation to Khamene'i, and after his declaration of his withdrawal from putting forward his candidature for this post, they insisted that it should be accorded to Iran.

[Al-Hakim] Some might feel that interest demands that the post of source of emulation should be accorded to Iran. Those who support this view have the right to express their views like all others, provided that they do not insist on it or try to impose it in contradiction to the religious criteria. This view does not mean that there is a conflict. It only says that interest demands that the source of emulation should be situated in a secure area where it can perform its role in complete freedom and without any pressure. Undoubtedly, the conditions in Iraq are bad and so the source of emulation would not be able to perform its role fully. The Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani is beseiged in his house and he is not permitted to lead people in prayers or to deliver sermons outside. The Ulemas in Iraq are prohibited from lecturing and performing their roles. This exceptional situation is perhaps what prompts some to feel that interest demands that the source of emulation should be somewhere else. Others might have different views about this. This difference in opinions is only natural, and so why should it be interpretted as a conflict? To interpret this matter as a conflict is a conspiracy against the source of emulation issue and an attempt to overlook the abnormal conditions in Iraq.

[Husayn] Does this mean that you support the view that the post of the source of emulation should now be in Iran and not in Iraq because of the current Iraqi conditions?

[Al-Hakim] My views on this matter are well known and are published.

[Husayn] What are they exactly?

[Al-Hakim] I say that the source of emulation in Iraq is under seige now and that having the source of emulation outside Iraq is natural and serves a great Islamic interest at the present time.

Knesset Votes Down Bills on Jerusalem 'Barely'

TA2501164595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Knesset has voted down two bills concerning Jerusalem in a preliminary reading. The margins in both votes was narrow, as some Labor Knesset members [MK] also supported the legislation. One bill was aimed at preventing territorial compromise in Jerusalem, and the other called for extending the city limits. But, as David Ze'ev reports, the voting was marred by an unprecedented riot in which Acting Speaker Ester Salmovitz was almost physically attacked.

[Ze'ev] [passage omitted] Both in the vote on making Jerusalem concessions subject to a special two-thirds Knesset majority and in the second vote on extending Jerusalem's border to include Giv'at Ze'ev and Ma'ale Adumim the coalition prevailed, and the bills were voted down—but barely. With some Labor MK's supporting the legislation, the results were 44 to 47 with one abstention in the first vote, and in the second vote—on Giv'at Ze'ev and Ma'ale Adumim—51 to 52.

Rabin Addresses Bureau on Security, Political Issues

TA2601160395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by party affairs correspondent Sefi Handler]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, addressing the Labor Party Bureau this afternoon, mainly dealt with two issues. He opened his remarks with a comprehensive review of the security-political situation, mainly concentrating on the grave attack in Bet Lid.

Rabin said that suicide attacks perpetrated by extremist Muslim terrorists were Israel's main security problem. It is the most serious type of terrorism and requires us to adopt intricate measures. The terrorists are simple people who have been incited by extremist Islamic clerics. It is difficult to spot and identify them; it is not inconceivable that the terrorists donned IDF [Israel Defense Forces]-type uniforms.

The prime minister explained that the terrorists are directing their attacks within Israel proper because they know that more than 97 percent of Israel's Jews do not live in the territories. Rabin added that the settlements do not offer any security contribution in confronting this type of terrorism.

Only the army and the Shin Bet can deal with this issue. Too many troops are busy guarding isolated settlements in the territories, but this is our duty, Rabin added. Rabin directed another statement against the settlements and the settlers when he said that IDF soldiers could have improved their performance against terrorism were they not occupied with escorting convoys and traffic within the settlements. Tzali Reshef asked Rabin the settlements should not be evacuated at this stage, to which Rabin replied that the solution has to be found within the framework of the permanent arrangement.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip reacted to Rabin's tough remarks by saying that Israel should have a full-time defense minister. If that was the case the defense minister would undoubtedly be dealing with terrorism in a more appropriate manner. The council claimed that Rabin's attack on the settlements exemplifies his habit of criticizing others when he is to blame.

The other issue with which Rabin dealt is political. Prior to the bureau meeting Rabin held a meeting with Justice Minister David Liba'i and Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili. The three decided not to put an ultimatum to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], but rather to demand that it give an answer-in-principle whether it intends to join the coalition or not. The three want to know whether SHAS—after the High Court of Justice rules on the Labor- SHAS coalition agreement and assuming that its ruling is favorable—is interested in joining the government. Rabin told the bureau members that it is improper to have the interior and religious affairs portfolios unoccupied. Rabin said a solution must be found, but emphasized that he wants to exhaust all the possibilities with SHAS. He said that he does not want to present them any timetables or ultimatums.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 26 January adds: "Knesset Member Shlomo Benizri, chairman of the SHAS Knesset faction, said SHAS will consider rejoining the coalition without compromising on the important issues. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that yesterday it was decided that Labor and SHAS representatives will start negotiations next week. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef expressed satisfaction with the ministerial committee's decision not to freeze building in Jerusalem and its environs."]

Peres Thanks U.S. President for Antiterror Measures

TA2501155295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today thanked U.S. President Bill Clinton for his courageous steps against the terrorist organizations who aim to disrupt the political process.

Terror is an international threat, and consequently it must be dealt with on the international level, Peres said.

Peres: Completion of 7,000 Housing Units Endorsed

TA2601071095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Ministerial Committee on Construction in the

Territories yesterday approved the completion of 7,000 housing units in advanced stages of construction. He asserts that the right wing's attempts to involve the city of Jerusalem in a shouting match are, in his words, rousing the world against Israel. Minister Peres made these remarks at Tel Aviv University last night. Yo'av Ya'aqov reports:

[Begin recording] [Ya'aqov] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he voted in favor of the decisions endorsed yesterday by the Ministerial Committee on Construction in the Territories.

[Peres] When this government took over, some 15,000 building starts were under way in the territories. We checked the situation and decided that about 7,000 were in advanced stages of construction and that we would be unable to stop them. What we approved today was the completion of these 7,000 apartments. We are naturally not about to annex either territories or a single area.

[Ya'aqov] As for the possibility of a fence separating Israel from the Palestinians, the foreign minister says it is still merely an idea which should be discussed in detail.

Addressing Tel Aviv University students, Peres said the right wing's attempts to make Jerusalem the hub of a shouting match are rousing the world against Israel.

[Peres] There was no problem when we built and kept silent. Problems began when we started shouting instead of building. There has been a false impression in recent days that we intend to annex more areas to Jerusalem. The Likud did not annex anything either. We are not allowed to annex anything under the Camp David accords. Why create an incorrect impression?

[Ya'aqov] Addressing the status of the negotiations with Syria, Peres said he felt the Syrians were undecided on whether to launch a peace move. The foreign minister added that there is every indication that the Syrians are in no hurry to be involved in the peace process. [end recording]

Settlement Council Reacts to Committee Decisions

TA2501150795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the ministerial committee's decision to build in the settlements surrounding Jerusalem, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza said that the government continues to deceive the public and to approve construction which is already under way in the settlements. Council members told our correspondent Gay Qotev that the committee actually decided to freeze construction of over 50 percent of the houses which had been scheduled to be built this year in Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev. With regard to Betar, the committee decided only to draft plans.

Peace Now, on the other hand, regreted the decision of the ministerial committee. According to it, of all times, the committee decided to go ahead with construction in the territories on a tragic week during which the prime minister has been underscoring the need for separation between Israel and the Palestinians.

Settlers 'Secretly' Start 500-Unit Binyamin Neighborhood

TA2601084595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and the Mate Binyamin Development Company are this morning completing the groundwork near the Ramallah District settlement of Kokhav Ya'aqov, launched secretly two weeks ago. The settlers have built roads and planted trees in a bid to establish their claim on the state-owned land that abuts their settlement. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar visited the construction area near Kokhav Ya'aqov this morning.

[El'azar] The 'Atarot Hill, situated about 500m south of the outskirts of Kokhav Ya'aqov, is just another rocky hill in Judaea and Samaria. This morning, however, several leaders from the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza arrived at the site to view the work carried out by the Mate Binyamin Development Company tractors, which have been building new roads in the area over the past two weeks. Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Mate Binyamin Council, brought along some documents, including an annexation order dated 1967 and signed by Major General 'Amram Mitzna'. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 26 January adds: "A short while ago, the Civil Administration served the Mate Binyamin Council head with an injunction ordering a halt to the construction work near the Kokhav Ya'aqov settlement."

[The report says that "the settlers have completed marking the state-owned land and building approaches to the hill, and the bulldozers have left the site. The Kokhav Ya'aqov settlers plan to build a 500-apartment neighborhood on the hill."]

Military Source Says Green Line Fence 'Questionable'

TA2501173495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas and David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The construction of a fence along the Green Line is politically charged and its potential effectiveness is questionable, a senior army source said last night.

"You have to bear in mind that (Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin made it clear that separation means establishing a temporary security line, rather than delineating a political border, and that there are other means aside from the fence to achieve that.

"But that is exactly where the issue is politically explosive, because some will say that he is prejudging and predetermining the final status lines by demarcating a tangible border," the source said.

Rabin said yesterday he plans to appoint a committee to study the feasibility of separation, which is to make recommendations within two months.

The senior officer confirmed that neither the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Planning nor Logistics branches have a blueprint for an electronically controlled fence. But he said constructing a fence is possible, at an estimated cost of $200 million, and it could be operational within a year.

"Separation can also be achieved through military presence," the source said. "A fence would inevitably mean that hundreds of soldiers would have to man it, that any child who throws a stone at it would activate the ultrasensitive sensors and that checkpoints would have to be built to monitor and control the entry and exit of Palestinian laborers," the officer said.

Joseph Alpher, the former director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said yesterday that separation is part of a continuous development since Israel withdrew from Gaza in May. Alpher recently authored a study called "Settlements and Borders" as part of a series on "Final Status Issues: Israel-Palestinians."

Some senior officials have embraced a suggestion by Alpher that Israel annex 11 percent of the territories, which includes 70 percent of the settlers.

Rabin's Separation Proposal Criticized

TA2501130095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jan 95 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Political Process Is Frozen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The implementation of the political process with the Palestinians has been frozen. Consequently the debate on whether Israel should halt the negotiations on implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements in the wake of the recent terror wave is academic. The process has been de facto derailed by this wave. The negotiations will continue, but under the present circumstances the next stage in the agreement which calls on Israel to continue its withdrawal will not be implemented. Under the present circumstances no prime minister, especially not Yitzhaq Rabin, can withdraw from additional territory and hand it over to Palestinian police responsibility.

There is no chance that the prime minister will order an evacuation of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Judaea and Samaria areas when:

- terrorism is on the increase and demands a higher toll of victims by the month
- the IDF itself says it will find it hard to assume responsibility for the security of Israelis in the West Bank after it withdraw
- the Intelligence Branch and the Shin Bet say that under the present conditions the cities from which the IDF withdraws will become an asylum for terrorists
- the planning and execution of the Bet Lid attack originated in the Gaza Strip
- the Palestinian Authority [PA] is unwilling to confront Islamic Jihad and Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm and is allowing them to operate in the Gaza Strip
- the military judge advocate's office issues a document from which it transpires that the PA is responsible for dozens of violations of the agreement in various spheres, mainly in the fight against terrorism and its refusal to hand over murderers.

Yasir 'Arafat's plan to relocate the PA offices in Ramallah, as close as possible to Jerusalem, will apparently have to be delayed for a long while.

Since the agreement was signed on the White House lawn, growing Palestinian terrorism has reaped a toll of 118 Israeli victims. This number far exceeds the number of casualties suffered prior to the agreement or even during the apogee of the intifadah. From this it transpires that the unhindered activities of the terror organizations in free Palestinian territory such as the Gaza Strip—to where it is also very easy to smuggle explosives—make the life of the terrorists much easier.

We can see that the remarks of an Arab commentator, who said that the Arabs will give Israel a peace without peace, are being proven right. Such a formula, however, will not be accepted by the Israeli public. For most Israelis peace means security. Without security there is no peace. The formula of a peace without peace will not be accepted even by a government which includes Meretz ministers, because such a government would not last long.

It is interesting to note that Shim'on Peres, one of the most ardent supporters of the Oslo agreement who is pushing for a profound compromise with the Palestinians, claims that firm steps against terrorism are a condition for the continuation of the political process. In cabinet meetings and ministerial committees Peres supports all the demands of the Shin Bet, including some that have been rejected by the attorney general.

The solution should not be sought in terms of retaliation strikes of the 1950's style—when the 101 commando unit and the paratroopers tried to solve the problem of terrorism by means of force only. The solution should also not be sought merely in terms of continuous punishment and sanctions against the Palestinians, because we are in the midst of a process of compromise and reconciliation between the two nations. The ultimate test in this issue of terrorism is in the PA's sincere desire to maintain a joint struggle with Israel against terrorism, which is also endangering its own existence and its chances to achieve independence.

It is an illusion to believe that fences and walls are a serious answer to the present situation. Fences and walls are a means of escaping the problem and will only free the Palestinians of the need to fight terrorism. Their erection will prove we accept the fact that this is not a real peace process. The fences cannot solve the issue of separation; they will only cause an enormous financial waste.

Even without the fences and walls the prime minister's separation plan includes a serious internal contradiction. Whoever wants to bring about a quick separation between the two nations must jump over as quickly as possible to the final phase of the process, in which the final border between the two entities is to be demarcated. The present method, which is based on the Oslo and Cairo agreements, requires the two sides to be intermingled during all the phases of the interim stage. This means that the separation plan calls for a serious amendment of the Oslo agreement.

The Palestinians will be only too happy to discuss the final stage now, but first they must prove to Israel they are doing everything to stop terrorism. They must also prove to themselves they are prepared to manage their own affairs.

Another problem relating to Rabin's separation plan has to do with the settlements and the Israelis living in the territories. It is unlikely that Rabin is planning a separation between the state of Israel and all the Jewish settlements in the territories. Consequently a serious separation plan must deal with the concentration of the settlements in settlement blocs located in the area Israel intends to preserve after the final border is demarcated.

The opposing concept held by the Likud calls for a halt to the negotiations. The Likud rejects the separation both on practical and ideological grounds. This concept means the continued intermingling of the two nations and an increase in the scope of settlement activity in the West Bank. It is based on the assumption that we will not face a Yugoslavia-like situation and that we will always be able to stamp out any uprising.

Crisis Reported in Aviation Talks With Jordan

TA2401192995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between Israel and Jordan on aviation arrangements ran aground this evening, apparently temporarily.

Our correspondent Gil'ad 'Adin reports that the talks, being held in Elat, adjourned a short time ago because of Jordan's insistence on its demand to fly over Israel at a low altitudes. The Israeli delegation opposed this demand, since such flights would disrupt Air Force training flights.

Jordanian-Israeli Committee Convenes in Elat

JN2501181495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint Jordanian-Israeli Committee entrusted with following up the implementation of the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty held a meeting in Elat this morning under Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, head of the Jordanian side, and Dr. Robinstein, head of the Israeli side. The meeting was attended by the heads of the border, security, transportation, trade, economic relations, and environment committees.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the talks of the specialized committees held last week. They have also specified a timetable for the committee's next meetings.

A responsible source from the Jordanian side said that the committee has discussed the major provisions of the draft agreements, which are being discussed according to the peace treaty. He said that the Jordanian side stressed that these draft agreements should cover all issues related to the relevant sectors and areas within clear-cut concepts.

The committee will hold its next meeting in Dayr 'Alla next Wednesday.

The Jordanian side comprised Major General Tahsin Shurdum, assistant chief of staff; Khalil Khuraysat, secretary general of the Ministry of Interior; Dr. Muhammad al-Simadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade; and Dr. Basim 'Awadallah, adviser at the Prime Ministry.

Cabinet Reviews Accords With Palestinians

JN2401203695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting this evening under the chairmanship of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. The council listened to a report from 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, education minister, and head of the Jordanian side to Jordanian-Palestinian talks. The report dealt with the results of the talks that concluded yesterday and with the agreements reached by Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority in all areas.

The three-hour meeting discussed the draft project of the establishment of a center for freedom, democracy, and human rights studies. A royal decree was issued during the first quarter of 1993 forming a special royal committee for this purpose under the chairmanship of Judge Najib al-Rashdan. The council also decided to reestablish the consultative economic council under his excellency the prime minister. The council will include as its members several specialized ministers, heads of economic institutions both in the public and private sectors, and academicians.

Paper Analyzes Accord

JN2501094995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Lamis K. Andoni: "Agreements Seen To Herald Well-Founded Relationship"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have reached a historic agreement to formulate a joint strategy that involves close and constant coordination in the Middle East peace process and cooperation in all fields.

The preamble for the general agreement, however, falls short of defining a future framework for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship although it implies that the immediate aim is to support the Palestinian quest for independence and sovereignty.

The document, yet to be officially ratified, is the first political bilateral agreement since 1983 that does not define the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as the future goal for joint cooperation.

The documents leaked so far involve monetary and banking agreements and indicate, however, that the door is left open for future options on forms of bilateral relations.

The accords, especially the economic part, draws the line between two separate entities and if implemented and developed could lay the ground for a future form of unity—as the agreements involve a high level of integration in all fields.

As it is, the theme of the accords, at least the political preamble, is consistent with the repeatedly declared Jordanian position not to predefine a future form of bilaterla relations.

His Majesty King Husayn has said on different occasions that Jordan refused to commit itself to a federation or confederation before the Palestinians are free from Israeli occupation and can have a say about their future.

According to Jordanian officials, it is unrealistic and impossible to predetermine the form of the future relationship prior to an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian peoples' attainment of their right to self-determination and particularly a solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed in 1993, does not define the future of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories as final status negotiations were put off to a later stage.

The Palestinians, however, had been seeking to reach a clearly defined framework with Jordan based on future confederal relations. The Palestinians were hoping that such an agreement will enhance their quest for sovereignty in their negotiations with Israel, and will make the idea of an independent state more acceptable to the U.S. and Israel.

The agreement drafted this week responds partly to Palestinian objectives as it includes an unequivocal Jordanian support for the asired Palestinian goal for a negotiated settlement with israel i.e. an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Both Jordanian and Palestinian officials expressed satisfaction with the terms of the agreement. Palestinian officials hope that the agreement will lessen the dependence of the autonomous areas and the occupied West Bank on Israel.

The need for closer coperation and even integration with Jordan was reinforced by Israel's constant closure of the West bank and Gaza Strip as a reprisal for Palestinian attacks.

"With or without the Israeli closures, integration with Jordan is crucial for the Palestinian struggle for independence," Ahmad Quray', the Palestinian official who reached the agreements with israel, told the Jordan Times on Tuesday [24 January].

Previous efforts to reach a cooperaton agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians foundered as Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat refrained from signing any agreements at the last minute.

Mr. 'Arafat was afraid, according to Palestinian officials, that an agreement with Jordan would limit his manoeuverability with Israel, especially that Israel was refusing to accept Palestinian sovereignty and Jordan was not ready to commit itself to a confederation between two independent states.

The Palestinian leader, it seems, was also more confident of international political and financial support and of Israel's commitment to implement the self-rule agreement.

But as international aid did not flow in as Mr. 'Arafat had anticipated, and the constant delay in the implementation of the self-rule agreement coupled with the paramount task of reconstructing a devastated economy and a strong internal opposition, Mr. 'Arafat returned to Jordan.

Many PNA officials had been pressing Mr. 'Arafat to reach agreements, with Jordan and deepen the relations with the Kingdom and increase his manoeuvrability with Israel.

Chances for a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement narrowed when Israel recognised Jordan's role in the Muslim holy sites in east Jerusalem as part of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

But even Palestinian critics of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, who felt that the step could jeopardise Palestinian claims for sovereignty over East jerusalem, prodded Mr. 'Arafat not to escalate tension with Jordan and to seek to talk it over with Amman, especially that Israel was benefiting from the ensuing dispute.

The preamble of the accord indicates tht the PNA had realised that it would be extremely difficult to build institutions, especially in a place where expertise is scarce, without Jordan's help.

The agreement involves a commitment by Jordan to help the PNA build various national institutions—a prerequisite for Palestinian nation-building.

Jordan on its turn, was always pressing for agreements with the PLO, but seemed less keen if not almost disinterested after signing its own treaty with Israel last October—particularly that it was let down many times by Mr. 'Arafat.

But things have since then changed. The Jordanian-Israeli treaty proved not to be enough to cause an aspired economic boom, while the Amman Financial Market showed great sensitivity to the deterioration of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

News reports on Tuesday indicated that the Amman Financial Market immediately picked up at the news of progress towards reaching an economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians.

Jordan, as officials say, felt that ts problem with the PLO over Jerusdalem was adversely affecting its relations with the other Arab states.

Both sides decided to ease the tension by avoiding to discuss the issue of Jordan's role in the holy sites at a recent meeting for the Jerusalem Committee in the Morroccan city of Ifran .

The Jordanian and Palestinian opposition to the peace agreements with Israel had been calling for joint Jordanian-Palestinian action but are expected to oppose the new accords since they are partly based on the same very agreements the opposition rejects.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Amman for Visit

Received at Airport

JN2501145695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1400 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the Palestinian National Authority, Yasir 'Arafat, has arrived in Amman this afternoon on a short visit to Jordan. He will meet His Majesty King Husayn later in the day.

Mr. 'Arafat was received by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the deputy premier and the minister of education, the minister of information, the state minister for Prime Ministry affairs, the foreign minister, the minister of industry and trade, the minister of culture, and a number of senior officials.

Mr. 'Arafat was also received by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the Palestinian Authority's delegation and its members to the talks with the Jordanian side.

Arafat Comments

JN2501174795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, arrived in Amman this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Upon arrival, he gave statements to reporters in which he said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] First, I would like to say that I am pleased to make this auspicious visit and to meet His Majesty King Husayn and my brother Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd. This is the first time I have come here from the homeland, the Palestinian land, on such an auspicious visit, God willing.

There is no doubt that we all seek further Arab solidarity and unity and that we seek to clear the Arab atmosphere.

[Unidentified correspondent] Responding to a question on whether Israel has decided to carry out settlement plans in the West Bank, 'Arafat said:

['Arafat] No, it has not decided to do that. An agreement was reached between us that there will be no confiscation of lands for the sake of expanding existing settlements or building new ones. [end recording]

Meets With King Husayn; Talks Begin

JN2501183595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening visited His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, at his place of residence. They exchanged views on various issues of common concern.

Talks started between the Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side, led by Yasir 'Arafat, at Raghadan Palace a short while ago. Attending the session of talks are His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and a number of senior officials from both sides.

King Reiterates Jerusalem Stand

JN2501214095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, and his accompanying delegation at Raghadan Palace this evening. In the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his majesty and Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting attended by a number of senior officials from both sides. During the meeting, bilateral relations were discussed. His Majesty King Husayn reasserted the constants of the Jordanian policy supporting the Palestinian brothers attaining their rights on their national soil. He underlined the need to build inter-Arab relations on firm and clear bases.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed that Jordan will continue to play its role in caring for the holy places in Jerusalem. He said that this role proceeds from Jordan's care for the holy places in Jerusalem and reflects Jordan's commitment to the Arab nation's causes and to maintaining its rights. In this endeavor, he said, Jordan has no ambition or aspiration other than to preserve those holy places and maintain their Arab and Islamic identity.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim; Royal Hashemite Court chief; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary; 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister of education; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, foreign minister; and Salamah Hammad, interior minister. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, Ahmad Quray', 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, Jamil al- Tarifi, 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, 'Umar al-Khatib, and Hakam Bal'awi.

The Jordanian and Palestinian sides will resume their meetings tomorrow morning to continue discussions on a number of issues of joint interest.

Liaison Office To Be Opened in Gaza

JN2601105195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that on the directives of His Majesty King Husayn, a Jordanian representation office will be opened in Gaza. This comes within the framework of reinforcing relations between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule authority and to facilitate the citizens' formalities.

[Paris AFP in English at 0959 GMT on 26 January adds that an official, who asked not to be named, said that the measure was a mark of "Jordan's support for an independent Palestinian entity and reaffirmation that the kingdom deals with this entity as the beginning of an independent state."]

Radio Reports on Talks, Accords

JN2601084795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's current historic visit to Amman at the official invitation of Jordanian King Husayn, a general agreement and six other supplements are expected to be signed less than three hours from now. They deal with transport, telecommunications, education, culture, information, and economy.

President 'Arafat last night met with the members of his delegation to comprehensively review the draft agreements that have been reached with the Jordanian side. A similar meeting is expected at 0900 today, if needed.

President 'Arafat also met with three of his ministers; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Ahmad Quray', and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi who briefed him on the details of the agreements reached with the Jordanian side, particularly in the financial and trade field.

Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi told Voice of Palestine that President Yasir 'Arafat focused on the economic and financial aspects and that he was convinced with what was agreed, describing it as an acceptable, encouraging, and positive formula for the two sides for cooperation based on the mutual interest of Palestine and Jordan. Al-Nashashibi said he believes that the agreement represents an achievement at this important stage to counter the international and regional developments. However, he said that the success of the agreement needs constant meetings on the level of ministers and experts from both sides to pursue its implementation in a manner that conforms with its content.

The finance minister explained that the most important element in the agreement is that the Palestinian and Jordanian market will be viewed as one market, that as many goods as possible be exchanged between them, and that customs duties in force should start to be reduced until complete exemption.

Al-Nashashibi said that agreement was also reached to establish a joint free trade zone between the two countries in the Jordan Valley as interests dictate to market agricultural and food products in a manner that will encourage transit and reexport operations. The finance minister emphasized that the agreement paid special attention to agricultural products, including the provision of protection when seeking outside markets.

Al-Nashashibi said the most important point in the agreement is to secure the transit of West Bank and the Gaza Strip produce to other countries.

More Accords Signed

JN2601121995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jordanian-Palestinian general agreement and seven executive agreements were signed at Basman Palace in Amman this morning in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The general agreement was signed for the Jordanian side by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister, and for the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority. The seven executive agreements were signed by the ministers and concerned Palestinian officials.

The educational agreement was signed for Jordan by Education Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah and for the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Amr.

The information and culture agreement was signed for Jordan by Culture Minister Samir al-Habashinah and for the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

The currency and banks agreement was signed for Jordan by Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank, and for the Palestinian side by Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi.

The trade exchange agreement was signed for Jordan by Engineer 'Ali Abu-Raghib, minister of industry and trade, and for the Palestinian side by Ahmad Quray'.

The posts and communications agreement was signed for Jordan by Jamal al-Sarayirah and for the Palestinian side by 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab.

The transport agreement was signed for Jordan by Samir Qa'war and for the Palestinian side by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad.

The administrative affairs agreement was signed for Jordan by Interior Minister Salamah Hammad and for the Palestinian side by Jamil al-Tarifi.

Al-Kabariti Condemns Bet Lid Attack, Separation Plans

JN2601080095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 95 pp 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Salamah Ni'mat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Wednesday [25 January] that the visit by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will help lay solid foundations for institutionalising Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the future.

Speaking following Mr. 'Arafat's arrival on his first visit since May last year, Mr. al-Kabariti said it was "no longer acceptable for Jordanian-Palestinian relations to keep going back to square one whenever there are differences."

He explained that the signing of a memorandum of understanding and cooperation between the two sides is "the first concrete step towards institutionlising our relations."

Commenting on Sunday's [22 January] suicide bombing which killed 19 Israelis near Tel Aviv, and Israel's plans Tuesday [24 January] to build a border to separate Israelis and Palestinians, Mr. al-Kabariti deplored these developments which, he said, were aimed at undermining the peace process.

"Terrorism, violence and counter violence must not be allowed to hinder the peace process or undermine serious efforts towards achieving real progress in the ongoing negotiations on all tracks," Mr. al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

Responding to a question, the minister said that "one cannot but condemn this cycle of violence and killings no matter what the motives or justifications were." He stressed that "reaction to such acts must not serve the aims of those who do not want the region to reach a state of just and comprehensive peace."

He added that "the best response is to proceed ahead in the peace process so that we can achieve positive developments that reflect on the lives of the people in the region and open the way for progress and growth."

On Jordan's position vis-a-vis the controversy over the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mr. al-Kabariti said Jordan's position was clear in the framework of the U.N. General Assembly in terms of rejecting the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of using such weapons. He said this position calls for a total removal of these arms and all weapons of mass destruction.

He pointed out that Jordan had succeeded in including a clause in its peace treaty with Israel for working towards "the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, both conventional and non-conventional."

Reactions to U.S. Freezing of Organizations' Assets

Deputy: 'Biased Policy'

NC2601070195 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Fathi Yakan, chairman of the Islamic Group Bloc [in the Chamber of Deputies], has attacked the U.S. decision to freeze the assets of Palestinian organizations and Islamic and nationalist figures in American banks.

He said the campaign U.S. President Bill Clinton launched personally exposes the biased policy of the U.S. Administration, a policy U.S. Presidents have pursued for nearly 50 years, since the Hebrew state came into being.

Paper: 'Economic Punishment'

NC2601123695 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 1

[Editorial by Chief Editor Rafiq Khuri: "No War, No Peace in New Formula"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now what? The time has come for us to revise our calculations in the middle of the way toward the peace settlement. Where is the Middle East heading in the next few months, which are beginning with the region entering the whirlpool of violence and will end with Israel and the United States entering the coma of elections? Is it heading toward more violence and few, perhaps no negotiations or toward more negotiations and little, perhaps no violence?

All that has happened since the suicide operation in the heart of Israel has so far been more of the same: more talk about adherence to the peace process, more security measures, and more readiness for similar attacks, either from Gaza, as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad said, or from south Lebanon, as Ahmad Jibril [leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] said during his short visit to Beirut.

But many people in the region and elsewhere speak of dramatic scenarios suggesting that one stage has ended and a new one has begun, not only concerning the situations of the parties to the conflict, the relations among them, and their relations with the American sponsor, but also concerning those who reject the settlement process, relations among these parties, and positions toward them. If the scenarios are mere speculation and prediction, the facts are clear to the naked eye.

President Clinton is directly entering the battle, announcing a freeze on assets and a suspension of donations for charity work under the pretext that the funds go to "terrorist organizations." He urges intensifying the negotiations and calls on everybody to take tough measures against extremism and to refrain from providing "protection and shelter to the terrorists and enemies of peace."

Yasir 'Arafat says the operations of Hamas and Islamic Jihad undermine the "Palestinian dream," not the Israeli occupation, and he asks why the operations are carried out whenever he gets nearer to restoring the West Bank. He says he is heading toward a major decision banning the carrying of arms and the "use of liberated Palestinian territory to tamper with the Palestinian revolution, state, and authority," assuming that he has something of these three things.

Yitzhaq Rabin admits that "he will continue on the road toward peace because there is no alternative" and he threatens strikes and crushing blows inside and outside the border. He completes the policy of siege and the imprisonment of Palestinians under the slogan of "separation" and drawing "security borders," not a political one.

And Jordan agrees with 'Arafat on every political and economic issue over which they previously disagreed, and the rejectionist organizations raise the slogan of no alternative to armed struggle.

But the main problem is the defect from which the settlement process is suffering. Among the reasons for this defect are Israel's intransigence and America's leniency with Rabin. It is an illusion to escape rectifying this defect, focussing instead on security measures, economic punishment, and attempts to apply pressure on the Arabs. It is not only by preventive measures that the peace process can survive. Hence Damascus' clear reaction through Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who said that occupation necessitates resistance and creates the right climate for violence. He stressed that Israel cannot have both "occupation and peace."

If Washington fails to change Israel's concept of peace, a concept that runs counter to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the region will apparently move toward the unknown or, at least, toward a new formula of no war, no peace. This formula can be summed up as follows: Everything in war short of a full war and everything in peace short of peace between Syria and Israel and consequently between Lebanon and Israel.

Lebanon has no choice but to fasten the safety belt. It is facing more than Israel's reaction to the Bet Lid attack. There will be a lengthy period of hard times ahead.

Hizballah Radio Berates Decision

NC2601095895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0648 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, the measures that U.S. President

Bill Clinton has declared freezing the assets of individuals and organizations accused by Washington of being terrorist are propaganda rather than practical measures. They demonstrate how far the United States is ready to go in defense of the Zionist entity. Washington's including two Zionist movements among the organizations the assets of which will be frozen was more like a ruse.

This practically futile U.S. stance is condemned as demonstrating flagrant alignment with the Zionist entity. Those killed in the [Netanya] operation were soldiers. Israel is still in a state of war, so this was not an act of aggression, as Washington says. It shows the continuing war that the Zionists themselves have kindled and for which they are paying the price. We maintain this stance, not from a standpoint of arguing with the U.S. stance and views, but to emphasize that Washington persists in pursuing two different policies: A declared policy as opposed to a real policy. Washington is raising a hue and cry over the death of Zionist soldiers but says nothing about Zionist massacres, no matter their scale and the number of innocent and defenseless citizens, children, women, and old people, affected. Despite its stance, Washington believes that it can present itself to the Arabs and Muslims as a party that pursues an even-handed policy and plays the role of a fair and honest broker.

Washington does not have a problem with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], al-Jihad, or Hizballah alone. The Arabs will always have a problem with Washington, as long as they do not take into consideration Zionist fears and interests. Differences disappear between what is American and Zionist when the issue concerns the Arab region. Washington's policy toward the Arabs is Zionist and, consequently, the Arabs can only appease America by accepting Zionist conditions. Current events prove this. 'Arafat remained terrorist No. 1 until he signed the paper of capitulation to the Zionists. King Husayn remained outside the framework of international legitimacy as a result of his support for Saddam Husayn and the port of al-'Aqabah remained under siege until he signed an agreement with the Zionists. Suddenly all the reasons for the siege vanished without explanation or justification of this step. When Egypt refused to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, linking its signing with Israel's, again the United States created a noise with the aim of pressuring Egypt to force it to sign regardless of the Israeli stance. When Syria tried to clear the air in its ties with Washington, the response was clear: Relations may only improve in line with how close the Syrian stance comes to the Israeli conditions for a settlement.

In view of this it is commonplace to say that in any issue that concerns the region, the U.S. and Zionist stances are the same. Perhaps this is what made 'Arafat, who is in a hurry for any settlement, conclude that the shortcut to such a settlement is to reach an understanding with the Zionists directly, without having to go through the U.S. door, which he found closed so that he would be forced to deal with the Israelis directly.

It is ludicrous to hear Israeli complaints about the U.S. role in a [peace] settlement, especially as Washington has only ever interceded to remove obstacles in front of the Zionists and their conditions for a settlement. Washington's role in a settlement begins at the point where Israel can do nothing. That way, when the Israelis are unable to do something, Washington comes in to do it for them.

Buwayz Blames Israel for Violence, Fears Attacks

NC2601070895 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has blamed Israel for the violence in the region, attributing it to its continuing occupation of Arab land and its domination of Arab rights. He said that only a real and just peace can halt the cycle of violence.

Buwayz fears that Israel might repeat its attacks against Lebanon to provide an outlet for internal pressure. He said he made contacts with several parties to protect Lebanon against further Israeli attacks.

Fadlallah Expects More Operations Like Netanya

NC2601075795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. decision to freeze the assets of fundamentalist organizations has generated negative reaction by the concerned organizations. [passage omitted]

'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the Netanya operation confused Israeli society. He expects the operation to affect the [peace] settlement process. He expressed the belief that more such operations will take place.

Paper: 'True' Security Can Only Come From 'Just' Peace

JN2501164195 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 9

[Article by Sayyah al-Sukhni: "The True Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Among the basic axioms acknowledged by the entire world is that only a just, comprehensive peace that is based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and that maintains the interests and dignity of all parties can provide true security and stability for all peoples of the region. With such a peace, the peoples of the region will be able to bypass the remnants of the past and start building their future and the future of their generations with confidence and assurance. The absence of peace and attempts to substitute partial and flimsy solutions that are imposed in accordance with Israel's dictates and terms will not achieve security for anyone. Rather, it will only lead to the escalation of violence and tension and the exacerbation of the regional situation.

Of course, contrary to all world states, Israel has always ignored this fact and has constantly worked to obliterate it and circumvent it through unfounded, fake, illogical, and biased allegations. Israel claims that it needs to possess powerful and deterrent capabilities to protect its security against possible foreign threats. It claims that its security cannot be maintained or ensured unless it is the only party in possession of advanced and sophisticated weapons that give it an edge over all the Arabs collectively so that it would be able to strike at any Arab or Islamic state no matter how far it is from the arena of confrontation.

Meanwhile, Israel doggedly insists on refusing to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and on supplying its army with all means of strength and superiority. It is intensifying settlement activity in Jerusalem and the West Bank and escalating attacks on defenseless villages in southern Lebanon. Such practices indicate that Israel thinks of war and aggression more than it thinks of peace and stability, and that Israel is determined to proceed in its military and armament plans to intimidate and extort the Arabs and to force them to sign inadequate partial deals under which they would cede their territory and rights, giving Israel everything without having it give anything of significance in return. At any rate, Israel is fully aware that, irrespective of its lethal and destructive capabilities, it will not be able to impose its unjust terms of peace. Nor will it be able to ensure its security or even give ordinary Israelis a feeling of relief and security. According to the most basic rules of common sense, security is the outcome of a just, comprehensive peace. In the same vein, the absence of peace automatically means the absence of security. Israel is supposed to understand this simple equation well if it really hopes for security and stability. It should also realize that its policy on armament is shattering hopes for peace, increasing tension, and spreading despair and frustration. In addition, it will make it impossible for the Arabs to trust its peace orientations.

One may justifiably ask: Do the Israelis feel safe, even equipped with advanced and sophisticated weapons, including nuclear weapons? Have these weapons freed them of the specter of fear and anxiety? Have all these weapons affected the resistance of Arab citizens in Palestine and southern Lebanon? The answer, of course, is known. As long as there is occupation, resistance will continue and the Israelis will continue to live in constant fear. What happened in Bet Lid yesterday can be repeated at any moment, especially if peace remains absent and if Israel continues to deny legitimate Arab rights. Therefore, we reiterate that only a just peace can maintain everyone's security and stability and can save lives and prevent further any slide into violence and tragedy.

Press Says Israel Responsible for 'Cycle of Violence'

JN2501081195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Occupation and Peace Are Irreconcilable," AL-BA'TH editorial today comments on Middle East peace in light of recent statements by Israeli officials. The paper holds Israel responsible for obstructing the peace process and for the continuation of the cycle of violence, which is difficult to end unless its causes are removed.

AL-BA'TH adds: The entire world is unanimous that a rare opportunity has been made available to end the cycle of violence in the region. Israel, however, has done the impossible to pass up this opportunity. The peace process is still at square one because of Israel's rejection of the principles of the peace process. Israel's continued refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is conclusive evidence of its aggressive intentions, the paper says.

AL-BA'TH goes on: It is high time Israel understood that peace in the region is an integral issue. Israel should also realize that a true peace that provides security and stability lies in the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-BA'TH adds: If Israel insists on rejecting the principles of peace and on achieving its own peace that combines peace and occupation, then this is impossible to achieve, as Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said yesterday. In fact, the continuation of this policy provides a natural climate for the continuation of the acts of resistance until the liberation of territory and the restoration of rights. This right is approved by the whole world.

TISHRIN also holds Israel responsible for the failure of the peace process. The paper notes Israeli practices that obstruct this process. Israel has sought to sabotage the peace process right from the very beginning when it refused to respond to Security Council resolutions and drove certain parties to conclude separate deals. Those deals—it later turned out—did not at all bring the region closer to peace. On the contrary, those deals are time bombs.

TISHRIN adds: Explosions have been happening one after another since the infamous Oslo accord. Had Israel responded to the foundations of a just peace, withdrawn from the occupied Arab territories, and acknowledged the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, a firm and durable peace would have now been a concrete reality in the Middle East.

The paper concludes: The fence Israel is now thinking of erecting will never protect it. A just and comprehensive peace is a true guarantee for security. Full withdrawal from all the occupied territories, return to the 4 June 1967 lines, and commitment to the principles of international law—all these could pave the road for security and stability. As for making charges of terrorism against this or that party, this does not serve the cause of peace at all. Terrorism has been practiced by Israel, and is being practiced by it on a daily basis. The Zionist settlers represent a living example of terrorism, extremism, and chauvinism, in their attacks on the Arabs, seizure of their territories, and denial of their most basic living requirements.

In a commentary on the Middle East peace process, AL-THAWRAH also asserts that the international community's responsibility toward the peace process is increasing under the current circumstances. Israeli officials are competing with each other over the beating of the drums of war.

It is time for Israel to realize that partial solutions can only lead to massacres and escalation of violence and precipitate explosions. The primary sponsor of the peace process is asked more than any time in the past to shoulder its responsibility in rehabilitating the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace and not giving Israel a free hand, considering that it has been working to obstruct peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The peace process is today at a serious crossroads. Those who have a genuine interest in a just and comprehensive peace should put the peace process on the right track in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. They should not be taken in by Israeli propaganda that sheds tears over peace. Israel's behavior does not prove its good will and that it wants peace and is willing to meet its requirements, foremost among which is full withdrawal.

'Sources' on Contacts To Hold Arab Summit Attended by Iraq

JN2601094395 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Qatari News Agency—Well-informed Syrian sources yesterday said that an expanded Arab summit may be held in Damascus after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday and that Iraq will attend this summit.

These sources in Damascus revealed that currently there are intensive Syrian contacts in the Arab arena to revive Arab solidarity and to convene this summit. The sources added that Syria is seeking to achieve this objective in order to set up a new strategy to face the challenges confronting the region.

The sources noted that the positive results of the Alexandria summit held recently between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and King Fahd of Saudi arabia encouraged Syria to propose holding a comprehensive Arab summit within the coming period.

These sources noted that Syrian diplomacy has been put on alert in order to proceed with its moves to remove obstacles facing the convocation of this summit. The sources noted that King Fahd made holding this summit conditional on achieving Arab reconciliation first.

In this regard, the sources revealed that a Syrian delegation visited Baghdad in response to a recent visit by an Iraqi delegation to Damascus. They noted that these two steps opened the door for Iraq's return to Arab ranks.

These well-informed Syrian sources said that Syria will extend an official invitation to Iraq to attend the Arab summit to be held in Damascus soon.

The sources said that Syria held contacts with Kuwait, which expressed its willingness to open a new chapter with Iraq if Baghdad commits itself to a comprehensive and accurate implementation of all international resolutions dealing with the Gulf war.

The well-informed Syrian sources hoped that through the current intensive moves in the Arab arena, the Arab summit will be held at the end of this month or the beginning of next month or in March at the latest; that is, after Ramadan and the 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

The sources added that the final date for holding this summit will remain linked to political developments and to the results of contacts between various Arab countries which seem to be distinguished when compared to previous contacts.

Moreover, political analysts in Damascus say that through this summit, Syria aims at reinforcing its negotiating stand with Israel, which is seeking to isolate Syria from its Arab environment and to portray its stand as lacking credibility.

Afghanistan

Opposition Accused of Sabotaging UN Plan

LD2501190695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The opposition of the Islamic State is trying to sabotage the United Nations' plan by their fresh military provocations.

Defense Ministry spokesman Dr. Abdollah raised this point at a news conference held today in Kabul, attended by home and foreign journalists, and he added:

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has accepted the United Nations' proposed mechanism concerning the solution to Afghanistan's issues and is ready to transfer power to an acceptable commission. However, the opposition, despite this state of affairs, has embarked on new military provocations in various regions of the country, aiming to sabotage the process of peace which is the wish of the Afghanistan's Mojahed nation.

He said that the Golboddin militia in Ghazni Province and the Dostum militia in the country's northern region have recently embarked on fighting, and they have bombarded Konduz Province. The indication is that the opposition does not believe in peace and, as before, is trying to sabotage the peace process.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Encourages Foreign Investment

BK2401134495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing the inaugural function of the two-day Bangladesh Investors' Conference in Dhaka today, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said that Bangladesh is now the best place for investment in South Asia. The prime minister called upon foreigners to invest more in Bangladesh and said that investments in this country are totally safe as well as very profitable. Begum Zia said that Bangladesh has already adopted a liberal policy with the aim of making all types of investment attractive and profitable. She said that since the restoration of democracy in the country, the pace of investment has accelerated. This presents an opportunity for the development and prosperity of this region. The prime minister said that many foreign investors are now coming to Bangladesh. She said that investments worth $1.7 billion were made in the country between March and December last year. Direct foreign investments and joint ventures accounted for $1 billion of this. The prime minister said that the present government's policy has infused dynamism in the economy.

Our correspondent reports that about 1,000 delegates—including 200 foreign delegates—are participating in this conference, which is being held under the joint auspices of Euromoney and the Board of Investment. The inaugural function was attended by members of the cabinet, MP's, eminent persons, and high civil officials, among others.

Early Fiscal Export Earnings Over $910 Million

BK2101140295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Country's export earnings stood at over $910 million during first three months of the current fiscal year. The amount is 32.55 percent higher than that of the corresponding period of last fiscal year. This was stated by Commerce and Information Minister M. Shamsul Islam, while talking to newsmen in Dhaka today. He said the export target for the current fiscal year has been rationalized and refixed at $3,100 million and hoped it will be achieved. The commerce minister said the government has taken steps to enhance export of software, fresh flowers, artificial flowers to boost foreign exchange earnings. He said the farms which will take up cultivation of flowers on commercial basis will be considered as an export-oriented industry. The minister said packaging industry will also be encouraged for the boosting of export of the Bangladeshi items. Mr. Shamsul Islam said foreign missions are being geared up for creating export awareness and promoting export of Bangladeshi goods in the respective countries. Efforts are also under way to increase Bangladesh's export to other countries where there is no Bangladeshi mission. The briefing session was also attended, among others, by the commerce secretary, Mr. Mofazzal Karim, vice chairman of Export Promotion Bureau and deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank. Export earnings are on the rise in all the sectors, including ready-made garments, jute goods, leather, frozen (?foods), tea, and handicrafts.

India

Festivities Mark 46th Annual Republic Day

President Delivers Address

BK2501151495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1440 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Address by President Shankar Dayal Sharma marking Republic Day on 25 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fellow citizens: Tomorrow we celebrate our 46th Republic Day. On this auspicious occasion, I extend my greetings to all of you and to our countrymen beyond our shores. January 26th is a momentous day in our history. It was on this day that our Constitution, framed by the representatives of free India, came into effect. This Constitution enumerated our rights and responsibilities while reflecting our dreams and aspirations. Its provision have had a vital bearing on the development of our polity during the last 45 years. Republic Day is an occasion for all of us to think about the state of our union; to assess our achievements and consider the challenges which we collectively face.

Our Constituent Assembly, in envisioning the India of the future, drew upon values which sustained our civilization from the very dawn of history. Democracy, secularism, and social justice represent the very core of these values. The preamble of our Constitution declares our commitment to secure for all citizens justice, liberty, and equality. It affirms our belief in the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. These are not merely noble sentiments, but practical concepts which constitute the basis of modern independent India.

Rights of human beings have a central place in our endeavor to build a polity sustained by law. Our Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all citizens—the right to equality and freedom, right against exploitation, freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, and the right to constitutional remedies. These provisions were inspired by the famous resolution moved at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress in March 1931 by Bapu [Mahatama Gandhi] himself. Full observance of these rights is key to strengthening democracy. The working of our democracy under the most challenging circumstances is a matter of pride. Though people did not initially believe in our capacity to run a democratic system, it is now regarded with admiration by the rest of the world. Indeed, our successes have played no small part in the recent spread of democracy to other parts of the world. Many of the new democracies look to our legislative and electoral practices as example to emulate.

The democratic process has ensured that our masses have a sense of participation in our development. By giving them a stake, we encourage each one to make a contribution to nation-building. Democracy must emanate from the grass roots. Only then can society respond to the specific requirement of our diverse people. Empowering panchayats [village councils] and nagarpalikas [metropolitan councils] reflect this commitment.

Elections are the practical manifestation of democracy. Each successful electoral exercise is the renewal of our democratic tradition. We have just completed elections to the state legislatures in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, and Sikkim. A number of other states are due to hold elections shortly. These elections demonstrate the smooth functioning of our democracy and are of profound significance. Political processes require popular support. A sense of fair play is particularly important in a democracy. Therefore, where distortions have crept in, corrective measures have to be taken in larger interest. The faith of the people in the purity of the electoral process has to be constantly strengthened. As mass communication and literacy spread, more and more people will pay attention to the working of the political system. The awareness of our masses must not be underestimated. People expect probity and sincerity from their elected representatives. We expect the system to perform and to be sensitive to our needs. We believe the standards of public life set by our national movement must not be eroded. It is only then that the commitment to foster democracy can be fulfilled.

History, religion, and culture have bequeathed to the people of India a common legacy that is shared by all of us. Pluralism has been our way of life. The Indian ethos has evolved with a history of coexistence and respect for differences. Narrowness of thought is not a part of this inheritance. National integration requires emphasizing commonality and building on shared values. Even as we seek to strengthen unity, attempts to fragment society and accentuate differences continue. These manifest themselves in communalism, chauvinism, and in casteism. All these are equally dangerous to our unity and solidarity. Parochial loyalties must therefore be overcome.

After independence, India has undoubtedly made significant progress, but we must recognize that political freedom is not complete without economic freedom. Our task is to ensure that all our people are freed from want and provided with the basic amenities of life. Material advancement is one aspect of our progress. The elimination of the inequities of the past is another. As we build a just society, meeting rising aspirations is a significant challenge before us.

Our country is today at an important juncture. Growing demand and higher expectations necessitate expansion of the economy. Living standards can be improved only by effective application of science and technology to our daily lives. Judicious interaction with other economies will make our own economy more competitive as well as efficient. As we move toward a more open economy, we have to make every effort to develop our human assets. India and its people have always nurtured a vision of a humane society. We define progress not by the wealth of the elite, but by the welfare of the masses. In undertaking reform, it is important that its benefits accrue to all sections of society. Only then the national consensus on vital issues can be strengthened.

As we chart our future course, we will do well to draw on the rich legacy of our national movement. Our struggle was uniquely nonviolent. Nonviolence did not derive from weakness, but from faith in ourselves. An extraordinary mass discipline under the inspiration of Bapu resulted in our success. A nation which could strive with such steadfastness for its freedom can surely bring to bear the same discipline to the task of national development. Let it now be reflected for example in our work ethos and productivity. Let it be revealed in a better civic sense so that diseases like plague can be avoided in the future.

Freedom brings its own responsibilities and burdens, said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and they can be shouldered only in the spirit of a free people—self-disciplined and determined to preserve and enlarge that freedom.

The freedom that we have attained at such a cost has to be defended against external forces. Those who threaten our unity have sought through terrorism to still the democratic process. These attempts can never succeed. India wishes to live in peace with all its neighbors, but our resolve to protect our vital interests must not be underestimated.

When the national tricolor unfurls tomorrow on Republic Day, let us salute the flag of freedom and sacrifice and strive for the greater glory of India. Let each one of us take a pledge to live up to our duties and responsibilities, conscious that we represent a great nation with a great destiny.

Jai Hind [Hail India]!

TV Relays Military Parade

BK2601070095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi and English at 0345 GMT on 26 January carries live the ceremonies and military parade at Rajpath Avenue in New Delhi to mark India's 46th Republic Day.

The live relay begins with scenes of the promenade along Rajpath Avenue leading to the President House, the grand stand from where President Shankar Dayal Sharma will receive the salutes from the parade in his capacity as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The English-language commentator says: "One of the highlight of this year's Republic Day parade is the welcome return of the Indian Air Force fly past team in which you are going to see 15 Jaguars, 15 MiG-29's, and, of course, a variety of the transport aircraft."

At 0400 GMT, the coverage shifts to the India Gate, where the three service chiefs—Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, Admiral Shekhawat, and General Shankar Roy Choudhry—and Minister of State for Defense Mallikarjun and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao arrive to pay homage at the monument of immortal soldiers. Rao leads the nation in paying homage by placing a wreath at the monument as the guards reverse their arms and the last post is played, and standing in silence for two minutes. Rao then leaves for the parade venue on Rajpath and is seen arriving there at 0420 GMT following the arrival of the three service chiefs. Rao is welcomed by his cabinet colleagues and other high officials.

President Sharma is accompanied by South African President Nelson Mandela, who is the chief guest at the parade, and they arrive at the grand stand at 0427 GMT in a motorcade escorted by the President's Bodyguard Cavalry. Prime Minister Rao welcomes them and introduces them to the three service chiefs. President Sharma unfurls the national flag as a 21-gun salute booms in the background with the playing of the national anthem.

President Sharma then awards posthumously the Ashoke Chakra—India's highest award for gallantry—to Trooper Sajjan Singh of Kumaon Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel Harsh Udaysingh Gaur of Bihar Regiment. The citations, read out in Hindi, commends their gallantry in fighting "terrorists" and "foreign mercenaries" in Kashmir.

The military parade begins at 0440 GMT with four MI-17 helicopters flying national flags as they approach the grand stand and showering rose petals on the audience. The parade is led by Major General A.R.K. Ravi, commanding general officer of Delhi area, followed by a unit of the 61st Cavalry Regiment and the Cavalry Unit of the Military Services Corps. The mechanized columns include T-72 tanks; 105-mm light artillery guns; FH-77B 155-mm artillery guns driven by auxiliary power units; BM-21 rocket launchers of the 212 Rocket Regiment, which are capable of firing 40 rockets in 20 seconds; India's pride, the indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Prithvi' mounted on a truck; OSA-AK air defense missile system; Strella 10-M anti-armor missiles with 5-km range; bridge laying equipment; and the Signal Corps' communications equipment. The mechanized columns are followed by the marching contingents of the three wings of the armed forces to the tune of military bands and columns of paramilitary forces and police forces. The Air Force displays a Jaguar aircraft mounted on a truck; the indigenously developed Indira-I Radar; an Indian Air Force armament trailer carrying various missile systems, including the Sea Eagle missile; and 'Lakshya' pilotless aircraft, which was indigenously developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization, mounted on a truck.

The parade is followed by displays from different Indian states presenting the panorama of cultural heritage of the country and cultural shows.

At 0552 GMT, the fly past is displayed which consists of three formations of five Jaguars each followed by three formations of five MiG-29's each and a mix of transport aircraft—Il-76 with two AN- 12's on either side.

According to the Hindi commentator: "Star TV, on its network, relayed the entire parade live, like it did the last year."

The live relay ends at 0602 GMT with a salute by the President's Bodyguard Cavalry, the playing of national anthem, and the departure of President Sharma and President Mandela in a motorcade.

Six Killed in Stadium Explosions

BK2601122795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, six persons were killed and about 40 injured in three bomb explosions in the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu where the Republic Day function was on. The explosions took place when the governor, General K.V. Krishna

Rao, was addressing a large gathering after unfurling the national flag and taking salute of the march past. According to official sources, the attack is the handiwork of the Pakistan-trained militants.

AIR Jammu correspondent reports that the governor escaped unhurt, though two of the explosions took place very close to the dais from where he was speaking. The adviser to the governor, Mr. P.K. Goswami; the state Janata Dal leader, Mr. Dhanraj Bargotra; and some senior officers are among the injured. The first explosion took place where the staff of the State Information Department and Radio Kashmir were on duty. The radio staff escaped unhurt, but one employee of the Information Department was killed and some others injured. Others persons, who lost their lives in the explosions, include two police constables, an Army soldier and a Black Cat commando. One body is yet to be identified.

South African President Mandela Continues Visit

Commentary Discusses Cooperation

BK2601065195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Commentary by V.K. Arora]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and South Africa, though divided geographically by thousands of miles of the Indian Ocean, have always shared a common destiny and goals. The first person to start the fight against apartheid in South Africa was Mahatma Gandhi. In South Africa, people generally say that Mahatma Gandhi, the freedom fighter, is South Africa's gift to India. This fact is acknowledged with grace in India. It is thus natural that President Nelson Mandela, who carried on the traditions of Mahatma Gandhi in his fight against apartheid, should be the guest of honor at the Republic Day celebrations today.

India's role in isolating the oppressive apartheid regime in the international forums is well known. India was the first country to break off diplomatic and trade relations with Pretoria at a great cost to itself. India's trade with South Africa at that time was about 5 percent of its total world trade. It is still our cherished goal to bring our trade with South Africa to this level.

The bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries started growing after the lifting of sanctions against South Africa by India in 1993. India's exports to South Africa went up by 80 percent in just five months in April to August last year. Immense potential exists for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. India can offer its expertise in small-scale industries, which is a success story acknowledged the world over, and mass housing for low and middle-income groups. India in its turn can benefit from South Africa's advanced technology in mineral exploration. There is also good scope for import of South Africa's rough diamonds. India and South Africa signed the most favored nation treaty in August last year.

To further boost the economic relations, the two countries signed three agreements yesterday. Dr. Nelson Mandela and the Indian leaders have expressed the hope that India and South Africa can cooperate to bring about economic development in the Indian Ocean rim area which may come up soon as a trade region. Dr. Mandela speaking at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation again emphasized this.

Mandela Suggests Ocean Trading Bloc

MB2501140695 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1251 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Report by Neil Lewis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi Jan 25 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela, in his first foray into global politics since his arrival in India earlier this week, on Wednesday [25 January] evening urged political leaders to explore the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim trading bloc.

Since his arrival on Tuesday night the president has restricted his comments to cementing relations between South Africa and his host country.

Delivering the keynote address at the Golden Jubilee Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Lecture in New Delhi, India, the president said the concept could lead to socio-economic co-operation and other peaceful endeavours.

The Indian Ocean Rim concept could band together all those countries in Africa, the Gulf and Asia that have their main ports and harbours on the Indian Ocean.

"(We) have to develop the tenacity required to pursue goals that are old and familiar, yet new and not fully-explored in the current world milieu," he told about 700 prominent Indian politicians and members of the diplomatic corps.

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation employees said Mr Mandela's address was broadcast live on Indian national television.

Developing nations had to explore "a special relationship that should help improve the lot of developing nations in multi-lateral institutions such as the United Nations, Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement", he added.

To help change the world, political leaders had to study the positive elements and possibilities that exist.

International relations could now be conducted without "the aberration of military and ideological blocs which tended to cloud fundamental issues, including human rights and political freedom.

This had made it possible for issues such as social disparities among and within nations and the need to raise the global quality of life to come to the fore.

World organisations were examining their roles to make their central theme the issue of socio-political rights and social and political changes in developing countries had created renewed confidence and a desire for mutual co-operation.

These conditions made it more necessary for political leaders to pursue political freedom and socio-economic development, he said.

On South Africa, Mr Mandela said it was possible "to reach our goal of a better life for all in the shortest possible time".

His government based its confidence on a vision shared by most South Africans.

"If we are able today to speak proudly of a 'rainbow nation'...It is in part because the world set us a moral example which we dared to follow," he said.

In a reference to the proposed truth and reconciliation committee, he said South Africa's success was bound to last because it was founded on the premise that reconciliation meant setting out "to know the truth about the terrible past and ensure it does not recur".

Rajiv Gandhi's widow, Sonia, who hosted the event, paid glowing tribute to Mr Mandela when she introduced him.

Among the dignitaries present was anti-apartheid campaigner Archbishop Trevor Huddleston. He is to receive the Indira Gandhi Prize on Friday morning.

KwaZulu/Natal MPL [member of the Provincial Legislature] Amichand Rajbansi also made a surprise appearance. His presence was not noted by dignitaries.

Mr Mandela and his entourage are to attend a state banquet in New Delhi later on Wednesday.

'Press Release' Details Agreements

BK2501162695 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1454 GMT 25 Jan 95

["Press Release"—ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Mr. Rao and President Nelson Mandela today signed a treaty on principles of inter-state relations and cooperation between the two countries. This basic treaty sets out the common principles of the two countries of peace, democracy and secular governance, their common resolve to fight against apartheid, racial discrimination, and religious fundamentalism, their efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world with the firm belief that their bilateral cooperation would further the cause of peace and international security globally, particularly in Asia and Africa.

In the treaty, the two countries have affirmed respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, inviolability of existing state borders and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs. In the treaty, the two sides have also agreed to cooperate in the fight against international crime, terrorism in all its forms, crimes against civil aviation security, shipping and other forms of transport, illegal international trade in narcotics, and arms and cultural and historical objects, and would sign separate agreements where necessary.

The two countries also condemn all forms of hatred, violence, fundamentalism, and religious extremism. The two sides have affirmed their intention of developing mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres, political, economic, trade, science, technology, industry, transport, energy, culture, public health, etc., in fulfilment of which a Joint Commission has been established between the two countries. The joint commission agreement was also signed by Prime Minister Rao and President Mandela.

New Delhi

25 January 1995

Importance of Country's Market to U.S. Viewed

BK2101124995 Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Jan 95 p 12

[Article by Vivek Bharati: "Reforms as Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In February 1992, when Mr John Major, Mr Helmut Kohl, Mr Boris Yeltsin and Mr Felipe Gonzalez visited India, it was apparent that the world's major powers had begun reappraising India's role in the post-cold war world. Two years later, the outcome of the visits of two prominent members of the Clinton cabinet suggests that the reappraisal is almost complete. When Mr Nelson Mandela comes here, it will merely confirm that India is no longer on the periphery of the world order, to which it had been relegated during the eighties. The world powers have recognised that in the emerging multipolar global scene, India has the potential of becoming a pole of substantial attraction.

Gone are the days when the western alliance pitted Pakistan against this country and denied India its rightful place as the central player in South Asia. Indeed, the end of the Anglo-US tilt towards Pakistan no longer makes big news. Take one example: earlier this month, the British foreign secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd's endorsement of India's demand for a permanent membership of the security council and his advice to Pakistan to stop aiding terrorism in Kashmir failed to make headlines in Indian newspapers.

It is not that the Americans have begun to ignore Pakistan. They cannot as Pakistan's foreign stance affects their strategic interests in West and Central Asia. But the Americans have made it clear that they now wish to follow a policy of equidistance between India and Pakistan. Given India's relatively greater size and weight in world affairs, equidistance clearly implies that Indo-U.S. relations will acquire greater momentum over a period of time than the ties between the U.S. and Pakistan.

It is relevant to take note of the Pakistan assessment of the current state of trilateral relations, which was perhaps best summed up by Sardar Sher Baz Mazari, president of the National Democratic party of Pakistan. Analaysing the recent visit of the American defence secretary to Pakistan, Mr Mazari said: "The Perry mission was a grand success from the American viewpoint. His coming first to Pakistan was paying more attention to details. The more substantive visit is to India and it is to be noted that the lynchpin of the American post-cold war geopolitical objective would be cooperation with India in so far as South Asia and Indian ocean areas are concerned. Pakistan's sensibilities have only to be taken care of as a precautionary measure." Mr Mazari's contention may be a bit exaggerated. But the tenor of his argument does buttress the U.S. ambassador, Mr Frank Wisner's view that there has been a major transformation in the relationship between India and the U.S.

What has brought about this transformation? It is surely not India's military might which was substantial even in the eighties and yet the country mattered little in western calculations. Arguably, in the aftermath of the cold war, a reappraisal of India's role in the region and the world was inevitable. With the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, and the fact that the West is no longer compelled to encircle an 'expansionist' communist superpower, Pakistan has lost the strategic importance it once enjoyed as a member of the anti-Soviet alliance in the region.

Alongside, what has also distanced Pakistan from the West is the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and the growing influence of religio-obscurantisty forces in Pakistan's ruling establishment. Thus Pakistan's proclivity to export terrorism has become a source of worry not just to the western powers but also to countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Algeria. It is hardly surprising that coinciding with Mr Perry's visit to New Delhi were news reports that the U.S. has asked Saudi Arabia to motivate Kashmiri militants as also Pakistan towards negotiating a settlement with India. This may or may not be true, but the possibility of a U.S-sponsored initiative along these lines cannot be ruled out.

The main reason why this can happen is not just because the U.S. is redefining its security concerns in the post-cold war period. What had made India particularly attractive to the U.S. is that it is liberalising its economy and joining the global capitalist mainstream by wooing foreign investments. Fortunately for India, the change in its economic policies has coincided with a pronounced shift in the relative importance of factors that shape international relations. The end of the cold war has pushed ideological factors to the background and economic competition and the urge to expand space for national businesses in the global economy are now shaping foreign policies of nations.

This change is evident from the much greater hype and visibility given by both sides to the U.S. commerce secretary, Mr Ronald Brown's visit; in contrast, although it was the first ever visit by a U.S. defence secretary to India and therefore, no less significant, Mr Perry's stay in New Delhi attracted less attention. Another factor which points to the preponderance of commercial factors is the overwhelming presence of businessmen in diplomatic delegations. It is worth noting that the U.S.-India commercial alliance (USICA) formed in New Delhi consists entirely of private sector representatives. As it is in the U.S. the Indian private sector too has begun playing a role in influencing foreign policy.

The close involvement of private sectors from both countries clearly means that expansion of economic opportunities for mutual benefit will continue to be a significant determinant of bilateral relations. Indeed, this has already begun to happen. Mr Brown was keen on measuring the success of his visit in terms of the size of the business deals signed by businessmen accompanying him. Equally significant is that in public both Mr Perry and Mr Brown chose to ignore contentious subjects like missiles, nuclear policy, disagreements on the speed with which India should liberalise imports in certain areas or provide protection to intellectual property.

Clearly, the lure of the billions that American companies are hoping to make in the Indian market has motivated U.S. policy makers to sidestep areas of disagreement which generated bitter acrimony not long ago. Evidently, the fact that the U.S. considers India as one of the ten most important markets in the world is emerging as the determining factor in defining the U.S.'s approach to India.

Critics may argue that India is just one of the emerging markets which is wooing foreign capital; that there is a global shortage of capital and therefore India needs the U.S. more than the U.S. needs India. But it is also evident that there is a shortage of good and stable opportunities for investment. The Mexican crisis has once again shaken the investors' faith in Latin America. Russia continues to be an area of uncertainty. Most countries in South- East Asia have already peaked and as wage costs rise investors are looking to other avenues. The post-Deng projections about China are not as bullish as investors would like them to be and the lack of a legal system and the prevalence of corruption is gradually reducing the pull of what was once considered the world's biggest economic opportunity. Not surprising that some businessmen in Mr Brown's delegation publicly stated that India and not China was now the number one destination for investment.

This is the point. The size of India's market is the nation's greatest asset and it must make full use of this to bargain for a better positioning in the world community. It is apparent that economic policies which shape this market and integrate it with the world economy would form the core of India's foreign policy in the future.

Government Goes 'All Out' for Burmese Trade

BK2401135695 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 16 Jan 95 p 3

[From the "Export-Import" column by Arun Goyal: "Indian Overtures to Myanmar"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Government of India is going all out to court Myanmar [Burma] trade. A notification to allow drawback on exports to Myanmar was issued on January 4. Drawback on exports to the neighbouring region of Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet or Sinkiang and Myanmar is not admissible as the government fears that the goods may be smuggled back into India.

The facility will be available only when exports are made in freely convertible currency and against an irrevocable letter of credit and proof of realisation. Further exports by land must be through the land customs station at Moreh in Manipur only.

The change is part of a general thrust towards Myanmar, beginning with the visit of the commerce secretary to the country in the beginning of 1994. This was followed by notification of border trade and appointment of land customs stations in Mizoram and Manipur. ITPO [expansion unknown] is putting up an Indian exhibition at Yangon [Rangoon] on 17-25 February to expose the Myanmar buyers to the latest developments in Indian goods.

Our enquiries show that the exhibition is already fully booked. Top Indian companies, especially in the two-wheeler sector, have registered. The exhibition is to take place in Tatmadaw Hall in a space of 3000 sq metre. Apart from the exhibitors, over 150 businessmen are also visiting the country to explore opportunities.

Problems: The interest in the neighbour is triggered off by the government's desire to retain the country within the folds of South Asia. It feels uncomfortable with the advances of ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] and China towards Myanmar. Trade relations are good for both sides as unlike the other South-Asian countries, the economies are complimentary.

While Pakistan and India produce much the same goods, Myanmar requires Indian consumer goods and durables and its forest products and pulses are in great demand here. The prices on both sides are attractive.

Foreign exchange is the biggest problem. Myanmar does not have the money to pay for imports. Mechanisms such as the Asian monetary unit (AMU) to increase the liquidity of the region have failed to take off. The communication is so poor that goods have to move from India to Singapore and back to Yangon. There is no direct flight, passengers must fly to Bangkok first on their way. The land customs station is not fully useful yet as the services have not developed.

Nonetheless, the opening up of Myanmar removes the hurdle in the way of linking India with East Asia. A time may well come when goods can move freely by land from India to Singapore and even Indonesia. [passage omitted]

Iran

Attack on 'Zionist' Israeli Officers Detailed

LD2501192095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Jan 95

[From the program "Seven Days, The World"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On Sunday [22 January], two Palestinian Muslims attached explosives to themselves and engaged in a martyrdom-seeking operation by attacking a gathering of Zionist military officers.

For more information on the operation and the situation in the occupied territories we have contacted Mr. Mola'i, the correspondent of the Voice and Vision's Beirut office, by telephone:

[Begin Mola'i recording] Greetings to the listeners of the Seven Days, the World. The martyrdom-seeking operations of two Palestinian combatants in northern Tel Aviv on Sunday—which killed 19 and wounded 65 Zionist officers and NCOs [noncommissioned officers]—dealt another heavy blow to the Zionist regime.

Tel Aviv officials, in a passive and hasty reaction, increased their oppressive measures against the Muslim Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Also, other measures are being studied on the basis of which Israel will send into exile, outside Palestine, the families of those who engage in martyrdom-seeking operations. Apart from that, they will also destroy their homes. [passage omitted]

Observers have described the Sunday attack as one of the biggest anti-Zionist operations in the territories occupied since 1947. They believe the significance of this attack is that Palestinian combatants have managed to attack one of the biggest gatherings of Zionist military officers deep inside the Zionist regime's security zone, killing the highest number of their military personnel.

Another dimension of the Natanya attack is its timing. The Palestinian combatants have engaged in the attack in order to give a strong response to the Israeli policy of building settlements and confiscating Palestinian lands. The Zionists have recently confiscated hundreds of hectares of lands in the West Bank in order to increase the building of their settlements by 77 percent. The second stage of their plan is to annex those lands permanently to what the Zionists call Israel.

Sunday's martyrdom-seeking attack also showed that the Zionist regime has failed to achieve its long-standing goal of true stability and security through the signing of the compromise deal with the PLO. That deal has in fact had a negative result, so much so that, the PLO is loosing its popular support each day and, on the other hand, the Intifadah is gaining strength in the Palestinian arena. Such a situation will ultimately result in the Gaza and Jericho deal becoming worthless.

The increased anti-Zionist attacks launched by the Palestinian Muslim combatants, as well as the increased level of the Zionist casualties in the occupied territories, comprise one of the main obstacles obstructing the materialization of the current upsurge of compromise activities.

Therefore, both the Jerusalem Occupying Regime and America, as that regime's main supporter, intend to stop such operations by any possible means. One of the measures taken by them in this regard is the launch of wide-spread propaganda against the countries that oppose the compromise process under the pretext that those countries support Palestinian Muslim combatants. [end recording]

Trade, Debt Settlement Plan Reached With Egypt

LD2501140995 Tehran IRNA in English 1244 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Jan 25, IRNA—Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran have agreed on a plan to promote bilateral trade and on exchange visits by officials and businessmen of the two Muslim countries in the near future, Egyptian economic sources told Cairo newspaper AL-SHA'B. The agreement comes following talks between Iran's Deputy Minister of Industries Abolhasan Khamushi and Egypt's Industry Minister Ibrahim Fawzi in Cairo last week.

The sources told the bi-weekly paper that the talks were the start to a wider economic cooperation between Iran and Egypt and would also lead to an improvement in political ties. The two sides signed an agreement to settle drls. 149 million in debts owed to Iran by Egypt. Under the deal, Egypt would give Tehran equipment, designs and technical support worth the amount of the debt to be used for sugar plants in Iran's Khuzestan Province.

Egypt, which had received the loan during the rule of the shah, had stopped servicing the debt since 1983, AL-SHA'B said. The equipment, sugar plant designs and techncial support would be provided by Egypt's sugar and suplementary industries company over the next five years.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will take part in the Cairo International Fair in March for the first time, the paper added.

Allegations of Lockerbie Involvement Refuted

Commentary Blames CIA

NC2501194595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Political commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The CIA has leaked a forged document accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of involvement in the crash of the Pan Am plane over Scotland. Our political commentator has followed this report and written this commentary:

[Unidentified commentator] We were not surprised with the CIA's leakage of a forged document accusing Iran of involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie incident, because U.S. policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran has been based on blackmail and on lies, fabricated accusations, distortions, and deceptions ever since the victory of Iran's blessed Islamic revolution and its break away from the U.S. sphere of influence.

Iran is the country that has suffered most from organized international terrorism practiced by the United States and international Zionism. The Americans, the Zionists, and all the circles moving in their orbit have supplied the hypocrites with weapons and tools of sabotage, trained and sent them to Iran to kill unarmed civilians, and are still giving them moral and material aid even though they have been convicted of terrorism by the same U.S. circles, which the U.S. State Department has confirmed. The Americans, the Zionists, and the Westerners were the ones who prompted the Iraqi regime to attack Iran and continued to supply it with the most advanced and destructive weapons throughout eight years of war, while remaining silent over its crimes against humanity in Iran. French President Francois Mitterrand and even U.S. officials have openly admitted this fact.

The United States crowned its continuing terrorism when it brought down the Iranian Airbus over the Persian Gulf, martyring the plane's unarmed civilian passengers and crew just before the end of the imposed war. It was part of a preplanned and premeditated scheme, as evidenced by the reception that former U.S. President Ronald Reagan held for the commander of the cruiser that brought down the plane, the medal for valor he gave the commander, and Reagan's statement that the cruiser commander's action was aimed at protecting what he termed U.S. interests in the region. Islamic Iran could have retaliated at that time and exacted double revenge, but its Islamic values and principles did not allow it to do so. Its values ban the killing of civilians and taking revenge on them because of a crime committed by their terrorist leadership. Islamic Iran has been guided by these sublime divine principles and abided by them since the Islamic revolution's victory; it remains so to this day and will continue to be guided by them in the future. All those far and near are aware of this fact.

If this so-called document has been in existence for four years at the CIA, why did the United States not bring it out into the open when it used everything it could to lie or accuse Islamic Iran and its revolution? Why has the CIA not mentioned the convincing evidence of this lie? We challenge it to come out with at least one piece of evidence. What the document says is inconsistent with what U.S. investigations had already said about the existence of documented proof confirming Libya's involvement.

This confusion shows quite categorically that all the accusations about the Lockerbie incident made by the United States here and there are fabricated and baseless and are meant to blackmail the Islamic peoples and impose American schemes on the region. The leakage of this false document was merely a new Zionist-U.S. attempt to create a new media issue for the Western news agencies and media to use to distort the image of the Islamic Republic with the aim of blackmailing it, because the U.S. and Zionist schemes to shape a new Middle East through peaceful settlements and the drawing up of new maps for the region have begun to sway under the blows of Muslim mujahidin in Palestine and Lebanon.

Faced with the Islamic Republic's principled stand categorically rejecting any settlement with the enemy, the White House planners and the Zionists now fear that their schemes are unattainable and not, as they expected, easy to implement once the Arab regimes have become involved in the settlement, diplomatically recognized the enemy, and opened the Arab doors to Zionist infiltration. The Islamic nation is a difficult factor in the equation, and it has proved that it is capable of foiling all these schemes. This explains the yelling in the White House and the Zionists' panic in the occupied territories. It also explains the spastic U.S. reactions, as shown by its new piracy and theft of the people's funds in its banks in broad daylight.

The United States and the Zionists cannot avoid the shining truth and can never stop the Islamic nation's revolutionary movement, no matter how much they try to fish in muddy waters.

Western 'Officials' Report

LD2501204595 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Officials in Washington and London have rejected Iran's alleged involvement in the Pan American plane crash in Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988.

The United Press International (UPI) and Associated Press (AP) news agencies reported from London that the alleged involvement of Iran in the Lockerbie crash was nothing more than recycled rumors that had already been proven false.

The crash of the New York bound aircraft reportedly killed all 259 passengers on board and 11 people at the site of the accident. The western press alleges that the crash was due to a bomb explosion, although no concrete evidence was found.

Speculations in the west media ran tall stories and tried to drag Libya and Iran in the Lockerbie crash, in spite of the clear facts to the contrary.

Despite Iranian officials' refutation of the allegations and in spite of proven facts that Iran had nothing to do with the crash, British dailies have recently attempted to repeat the same old grounless charges.

U.S. news agencies quoted the U.S. state department spokesman, Christian Shelly, that all the probes into Iran's involvement in the bombing over the past five years have proved that the story was completely baseless.

On the whole, comprehensive investigations into the incident have borne no documented and valid evidence in this regard, Shelly added.

UPI and AP admitted that U.S. film-makers were bent on attributing the alleged bombing to Iran.

The agencies also quoted a British official who spoke on condition of anonymity that a so-called air force document, according to which Iran allegedly bombed the Pan American flight, "was not evidence" and that it was rather a fantasy.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman of Iran Tuesday refuted as "baseless" the recent allegations by the British media and called it part of the propaganda campagin against Islamic Iran.

The U.S. and British officials have always accused Libya of bombing the flight and have demanded that Libya deliver the two Libyan suspects. But Libya has refused to hand its nationals.

Libyan refusal led to the United Nations sanctions against that country under western pressure in April 1992.

Commentary Views Perry's Remarks on Nuclear Issue

NC2601115895 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 15

[Commentary by Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi: "Nuclear Threat and International Savagery"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the past two or three weeks, foreign radios and American and Israeli press commentators have been saying a great deal about the Islamic Republic's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. On the pretext that they are concerned about Iran's nuclear efforts, America and Israel have also not ruled out the possibility of a Zionist attack on the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant!

Among the numerous comments by American and Zionist officials, the ones made by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry are the most interesting! According to a REUTER report from Jerusalem, speaking in Cairo on 8 January he said: "The greatest threat in the world is the one that is posed by a 'savage' or 'terrorist' country that has nuclear weapons."

Without considering what repercussions his comments would have, he actually admitted that America—as the largest nuclear power in the world—is a savage and terrorist country!

It is not a secret to anyone that nuclear weapons are deterrents and that the only country that used this weapon not as a deterrent, but in a "savage" act, was America.

During World War II, the Americans dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing hundreds of thousands of people in the most savage way. Although nuclear tests and the manufacturing of nuclear bombs continued after that, no sane government has ever thought of using this bomb in world conflicts. And the world continues to curse America for the first and only nuclear crime in history. If we accept the logic of the American secretary of defense, Americans are "savage" and "terrorist" because of this. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated that it is not trying to manufacture nuclear weapons. To prove this, it has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, something that the Zionist regime has not done!

The nuclear installations of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been repeatedly inspected by international experts who have confirmed that Iran is not in the process of manufacturing nuclear weapons and that Iran's sole objective is to acquire nuclear technology for energy purposes, in the same way that many countries in the world are making peaceful use of nuclear energy. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views 'Frustrated Position' of U.S.

LD2501144395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Station commentary: "United States has not reaped much benefit from unquestioning support for Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time in a week U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has made remarks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, describing Iran as a serious problem for Washington's foreign policy. In remarks repeated on numerous occasions during the past two years, he announced that his government will do its utmost to prevent the sale of advanced technology to Iran. The remarks made by the head of Washington's diplomacy may be repetitive, but it is worth considering his aims and motives in raising this issue once again at this time.

Most analysts see Warren Christopher's repeated remarks against Islamic Iran as merely a reactive measure. However, there are differing opinions about the aims and intentions of the Democratic Administration in the United States.

Analysts see this stance as a result of the numerous foreign policy defeats suffered by the Democrats ruling the United States. They believe the fact that the process of compromise in the Middle East has reached a dead end and Washington's failure to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran on the international arena—as well as a number of other defeats—have put the Democrats in a reactive and frustrated position. As the credibility of the U.S. Administration continues to decline on the international arena, the Democrats' strength also declines within that country so that, in the recent U.S. congressional elections Democrats lost their majority in both houses of congress for the first time in the past 40 years.

Thus, the U.S. secretary of state's remarks to the members of the Senate requires an interpretation which takes these circumstances into consideration. It should be seen as an attempt to justify defeats in front of the rival group rather than as a declaration of a stance against a foreign government.

In the midst of all this, some observers also note the considerable influence enjoyed by the Zionists on the U.S. Administration and stress that it is the Zionists who have muddied the waters of Washington's foreign policy. It is also traditional for the Zionist regime to try to make up for its weakness by turning to the big powers, especially the United States, making them a shield for itself. However, occasional statements by senior U.S. officials about the need to review their policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran suggest that the White House has not reaped any benefit from its unquestioning support for the Zionists.

Foreign Propaganda Said Aimed at 'Weakening Islam'

LD2501144595 Tehran IRNA in English 1437 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Grand Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, here Wednesday [25 January] commented on the foreign propaganda campaign against Iran and said that the propaganda aims at weakening Iranian nation's Islamic faith.

The supreme leader addressing a group of visiting ulema, theologians and Friday prayer leaders of mosques, added that propaganda apparatus from the most distant parts of the world are working to deviate Iranian nation from Islam.

On enemies analysis on the present situation of the Iranian Muslim nation, the leader said one of the wrong notions which they are trying to propagate, is that rule of religion and administration of the system by the ulema will lead to defeat of religion.

On the contrary, the grand ayatollah said, the truth of the matter is that when a sovereignty is just and those in charge are pious, the religion will not lose its color but will be strengthened in the hearts and minds of the people. Consequently more people will be attracted to religion.

Underlining the need for worshipping the God Almighty in all aspects of life, the supreme leader said that praying to God is the characteristic of the most brave, devout and noble people of the world such as the first imam of the Shiite muslims, Hazrat 'Ali (as) and other members of the household of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). A society which lacks strong faith in God and devotion is vulnerable and ulema should draw people's attention to praying to God, the leader added.

Further in his speech the leader directed his remarks on ulema and theologians and said that people should be invited to forgiveness, kindness, patience, resistance, high morale and kindness, and avoiding betrayal and bad intentions.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also referred to the poisonous propaganda launched by foreigners to deceive world's public opinion and underlined the need for political vigilance. The leader said that vigilance is something which people should observe in all aspects of life and that those nations which have the ability to make proper analysis can understand enemy plots and can guard themselves against such plots.

Norway Hands Over 3 Citizens From 1993 Hijacking

LD2401133295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1306 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 Jan—Three Iranian citizens, who in September 1993 hijacked to Norway a TU-134 airplane belonging to the Perm aviation enterprise, were today handed over to the Russian side at Moscow's Sheremetevo-2 Airport. This was reported at a briefing in Moscow today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department.

The Russian side expressed gratitude to the Norwegian authorities for the positive resolution of this question.

Radio Views Bahraini Amir's Comments on Unrest

NC2501070395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his first direct reference to the political unrest in Bahrain, the amir of Bahrain said yesterday that foreign forces are behind the recent political unrest by the supporters of democracy. Without naming these foreign forces, he added that they are also involved in incidents in Algeria and Egypt.

Analysts believe that such comments, ignoring the roots of Bahrain's political crisis, show that Bahrain's leaders are not seeking logical solutions to such crises. Attributing domestic incidents to foreign elements only means that the Bahraini leaders are determined to ignore the reasons behind the recent crises in their country. By propounding the issue of a link between dissidents at home and elements abroad, they are continuing and justifying the policy of suppression.

In one example cited by the Bahraini amir, this policy is very clearly visible. In Algeria, where most Algerians voted freely in favor of deputies of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the military regime trampled on the election result with a political coup and, by alleging that there was a link between the FIS and foreign elements, it ignored the undeniable reality that Islam is supported by the majority in the country.

Propounding such allegations solves nothing; it further complicates the domestic crisis. In relation with this, the Algerian crisis during the past few months may be the best example of the failure of such unprincipled approaches to domestic crises.

During Bahrain's recent unrest, dissidents had some demands. The principled solution is that in Bahrain and in every country, leaders should reconcile with their people and, by meeting their demands, accept the people's participation in the decisionmaking process. In this way political unrest will end and governments will enjoy strong popular support and witness social and political stability.

Velayati Interviewed on Outcome of ECO Session

NC2601073895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by VIRI correspondent Hafezi from Ashgabat; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fifth ECO foreign ministerial session in Ashgabat ended its work after approving the organization's major and infrastructural plans, choosing Uzbekistan as the venue for the 1996 ECO summit, and agreeing to alter the Izmir Pact, which formed the basis of regional cooperation among the founders of the ECO.

Officials from countries participating in the ECO session said that with changes to the Izmir Pact, the ECO will conform with the new conditions that have emerged now that seven new countries, largely from Central Asia and the Caucasus, have joined the organization.

Commenting on the session's main results, Foreign Minister Velayati said:

[Velayati] Some plans that had been worked on for over a year were finalized during this session. The basis and the headquarters of the ECO Development and Trade Bank were finalized and it was decided to base the bank in Turkey. The decision that the ECO Air and Shipping Company be based in Iran was finalized. And it was decided that the ECO Insurance Company be based in Pakistan.

New plans were also compiled, examined, and approved. These plans include establishing the ECO Cultural Center, which was initially foreseen in the Izmir Pact. This center was set up in Iran before the revolution and was closed afterward. It has now been decided that the center will resume its operations.

The articles of association for the ECO college were approved during this session. The ECO's Insurance College is now operating in Tehran. Its articles of association had to be approved by the [ECO] ministers, and they were.

Among the other new plans approved was the creation of trade facilities and custom tariffs among member countries. Issues concerning consular facilities for travel by citizens of ECO member countries were also approved.

Khamene'i Appoints New Air Force Commander

LD2601120595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, issued a decree today appointing Brigadier General pilot Habib Baqa'i as the commander of the Air Force of the Army [artesh] of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the decree by his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander in chief of the armed forces, is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brigadier General pilot Habib Baqa'i. During the last 15 years, and in particular during the course of the imposed war, the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has indeed been a shining example and has achieved innumerable honors and glories in defending the great revolution and the beloved homeland. The role played by the martyrs of this force and all the selfless sacrifices to facilitate its progress have clearly been crucial. In this connection, it is in no way possible to deny the impact of the courageous and innovative management of the dear martyr Major General Mansur Sattari.

At present, while paying tribute and gratitude to that dear one and his esteemed colleagues who were martyred with him, I appoint you, as a distinguished personality in the air force who possesses great skills and abilities and enjoys faith, piety, and admirable courage, to the post of the commander of the air force of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I expect you to make serious efforts and innovative endeavors in both areas of increasing the force's efficiency and facilitating its all-round development, which started during the term of the late commander. I also expect you to enhance the revolutionary and spiritual morale of the personnel, which, praise be to God, has always been present in the air force. I pray to Almighty for success for you, your colleagues, and all the personnel of the air force.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 6 Bahman 1373 [26 January 95]

*Paper Announces Government Appointments

95P50037C Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In separate decrees issued by Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Dr. Mohammad-Khan, Mostafa Biabani was appointed director general of the Foreign Economic Relations Office; and Sa'id Tavakoli was appointed director general of the Personnel Office.

In a separate decree issued by Industries Minister Engineer Ne'matzadeh, Seyyed Ahmad Siahpush was appointed director general of the Evaluation, Investigation, and Labor Relations Office; Samad Bakhtur was appointed head of the Yuyand [as published] Office; and Seyyed Mas'ud Homayunfar was appointed supervisor of the Engineering Services Main Office.

In a decree issued by the head of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian, Bohlul Ne'mati-Zaviyeh was appointed director general of the Ardabil Province Martyr Foundation.

In a decree issued by the head of the National Document and Property Registration Organization, Seyyed Reza Zavarehi, Mohammad Baqer Mo'ini was appointed head of the Sepidan Registration Office.

In a decree issued by the head of the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, Engineer Davud Danesh-Ja'fari, Kayumars Seraj was appointed office director for this foundation.

In a separate decree issued by the head of the National Cultural Heritage Organization, Engineer Kazeruni, Mohammad-'Ali Shekuhi and Sirus Ma'rufi were appointed director of Tehran's Palace Museums and director of the Khorasan Province Cultural Heritage Office respectively.

In separate decrees issued by the head of the National Tranporation and Terminals Organization, Engineer Mohammad Si'adnezhad, Reza Moqaddasi was appointed supervisor of the Regional Affairs Investigation, Evaluation, and Coordination Office; and Behruz Gharavi was appointed advisor and director general of the Training and Research Office of this organization.

In a decree issued by Deputy Minister of Culture and Higher Education in Charge of Legal and Parliamentary

Affairs Dr. Mohammad-Hassan Shoja'ifard, Seyyed Javad Emami was appinted director general of cultural affairs.

In a decree issued by the National Welfare Organization's Deputy in Charge of Parliamentary Affairs Engineer Seyyed Asghar Sadati, Ebrahim Rahimzadeh was appointed advisor and director general of parliamentary affairs.

Petroleum Minister Interviewed on New Projects

NC2601090695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Jan 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven large projects run by the Petroleum Ministry will become operational by the end of the current [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1995].

Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, in an interview with RESALAT'S economic correspondent, also pointed out: Some of these projects will become operational during this year's Ten Days of Dawn celebrations.

He added: One such project is the large PVC manufacturing unit at Bandar-e 'Abbas Petrochemical Complex. This unit's output will be 185,000 tonnes per year.

The minister said: In addition to this project, new units at the Arak Refinery will also become operational during the Ten Days of Dawn.

He pointed out that the Urumiyeh crystal and melamine project is also to be inaugurated soon and added: A new unit at Abadan Refinery has been constructed and will become operational next month. Once this unit becomes operational, some 110,000 barrels will be added to the refinery's output [timeframe not specified].

The petroleum minister said: Two new units at the Kangan Gas Complex will also become operational within the next month and will increase the refinery's output by 20 million cubic meters per day.

He said: The Kangan Gas Complex's current output is 40 million cubic meters a day, which will increase to 60 million cubic meters once the two units become operational. We have plans to increase the refinery's output to 80 million cubic meters by the end of the current year.

Aqazadeh added: In addition to these projects a new unit with a 15-million cubic meter output will become operational at the Sarkhun Gas Refinery by the end of the current year. A 21,000-tonne unit manufacturing carbon in Ahvaz is to become operational soon.

*Tus Natural Gas Pipeline Begins Operations

95P50037A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Mashhad—With an expenditure of 1 billion rials, the project to extend the gas pipeline to the industrial city of Tus in Mashhad was completed and was put into operation.

On Monday [12 December], the assistant manager of the Khorasan Industrial Cities Company stated to carry out this project, by installing a pressure reduction station, 18 km were added to the natural gas pipeline network.

Engineer Azmin stated that the goal of this project is to change to fossil fuels for the welfare of the environment and to promote energy conservation in industrial units.

With the inauguration of this project, 15 thousand square meters of natural gas per hour are supplied to 122 industrial units in Tus.

Pakistan

Bhutto Speaks at New Military Aircraft Induction

BK2501140995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Pakistan does not have aggressive designs against any country. However, we cannot remain oblivious to our defense needs in the face of changing realities. Addressing the induction ceremony of Karakoram-8 in Pakistan Air Force [PAF] at Risalpur today, she said Pakistan is a peace-loving nation. However, we have to safeguard against the expansionist and hegemonic designs of other states. We must ensure optimum defense capability, which serves as a deterrent for the would-be aggressors.

Referring to the induction of the new aircraft in Pakistan Air Force, which has been manufactured with the technical collaboration of China, the prime minister said the government desires that scope of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defense production should increase in future. She said the two countries have worked for the promotion of peace, security, and development in South Asia. She said Karakoram-8 is a living symbol of joint venture in the defense collaboration and we are looking forward for more such ventures. The prime minister said fruitful technical collaboration between Pakistan and China has helped Pakistan in strengthening its aviation-related industrial base. Air Force commanding of PAF Academy, Risalpur, said Pakistan is among the few exceptions where an indigenously manufactured jet aircraft is entering operational service. [sentence as heard]

Vice President of Chinese Aviation Industries Mr. Wang Ang said defense cooperation between the two countries has entered into a new phase. The prime minister handed over documents of Karakoram-8 to the officer commanding of the Flying Training Wing of PAF. [passage omitted]

Editorial Responds to Christopher Speech

BK2501150495 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 23 Jan 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Programs of Pakistan and India: American Impressions and our Apprehensions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said that the United States is making efforts to keep the nuclear programs of Pakistan and India at their current levels and to prevent any upgrading of them. Addressing a function at Harvard University, Christopher said the United States does not want the nuclear capabilities of Pakistan and India to threaten South Asia or the rest of the world. The United States wants to see that the nuclear capabilities of these two countries is not promoted further and wants a guarantee that they will not enhance the capacity of their nuclear weapons. The secretary of state has stated that these nuclear programs have already been frozen to a particular level and that the United States admits that it is not possible for the two countries to roll their programs back. The United States is prepared to tolerate Pakistan and its current nuclear capability and is also glad to note that both countries have decided to not cross their respective nuclear boundaries.

This is a policy statement of the U.S. secretary of state on the nuclear programs of Pakistan and India, which was directly telecast over a private television network in the United States. The Christopher statement is gratifying in that the United States has acknowledged now that Pakistan will not roll back its nuclear program. So far as the issue of preventing Pakistan and India from enhancing their capabilities is concerned, we would like to tell Christopher that his claim contradicts the proclaimed United States policy that in South Asia, the United States will adopt an "even-handed" policy with Pakistan and India. It would definitely be clear to Christopher that India fired a nuclear device in 1974, that thereafter it has been engaged continuously in manufacturing nuclear weapons, and that its nuclear program is not frozen. Pakistan has acquired this capability toward the end of the 1980's, but it has neither conducted any nuclear tests nor manufactured any nuclear weapons so far. Nevertheless, Pakistan has never denied its nuclear capability. It is also known that Pakistan has made a political decision to not manufacture nuclear weapons.

Pakistan's nuclear capability does not pose a threat to South Asia or the rest of the world. Whatever Pakistan has done was due to its fear of India and to defend itself from an enemy 10 times larger and smarter. It is true that had Pakistan not acquired its nuclear capability, India would definitely have committed aggression against Pakistan. Contrarily, India poses a threat not only to South Asia but to other parts of the world as well. India possesses a large number of nuclear weapons. Besides, it has manufactured long range missiles like the Prithvi and Agni. The Agni missile, whose range at more than 3,000 kilometers now, is being upgraded for a range of 4,000 to 5,000 kilometers.

India has acquired satellite manufacturing technology, which has an element of American assistance. India is only using this technology to increase the range of Agni missiles. Hence, besides South Asia, several East Asian and Middle Eastern countries come under the range of Agni, a range where India can drop nuclear bombs. Therefore, we must take note of the part of Christopher's statement that both Pakistan and India should not enhance their abilities to fire nuclear weapons. Through its missile development program, India has been constantly increasing its long-range capacity, where Pakistan has not yet made any noteworthy progress in missile production. The missiles acquired from China are no match for the Indian missiles. Therefore, placing the two countries on an equal plane in the area of missiles is, in fact, tantamount to giving a free hand to India.

Under the recent defense pact signed between the United States and India, initial work has begun for defense research and joint production of sophisticated weapons between the two countries. According to New Delhi's popular daily INDIAN EXPRESS, Indian experts are making a feasibility study on the sectors where further research will be possible and the weapons that can be jointly manufactured with the United States. According to the paper's defense analyst, the use of electronic equipment in defense may be an important topic for joint research by the two countries. Some difficulties have been experienced in the fire control system of the new Arjun tank manufactured by India. It will be possible to overcome this difficulty with the help of the United States and the two countries will be able to jointly manufacture necessary equipment as well. The two countries will also cooperate in improving the light combat aircraft manufactured in India.

Patriotic circles in Pakistan will definitely express concern over the Christopher statement. According to the statement, the United States will make efforts to keep Pakistan and India at the same level in the nuclear field. Christopher has ignored the fact that India is already superior to Pakistan in the nuclear field. Barring China, there is no Asian rival to India with regard to missiles. Then again, in Pakistan's point of view, the defense cooperation between the United States and India will become a cause for allowing India military superiority. The U.S. Administration should admit that India has become a nuclear threat in the region and concentrate on curbing this threat. The Government of Pakistan should also pay attention to this and apprise the United States of its concern.

Foreign Investment Feared, Questioned

Domestic Markets Seen Threatened

95AS0181A Karachi JANG in Urdu 28 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Aftabudin Qureshi: "Foreign Investments—Internal Destruction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, during her recent visit to the United Kingdom, has invited British investors, just as she did investors in the United States, France, and Hong Kong, to invest in Pakistan. She has assured them of providing all kind of incentives to facilitate this. Asaf Zardari, the prime minister's husband, has already given us the news about investments coming from Hong Kong. The prime minister herself has made agreements with the United States, especially in the area of power projects. She has also claimed that there have been more investments during her one year in power than during the last 48 years. Before we analyze what happened in our country during the last one year, we must find out why foreign investment is Benazir government's first priority. Are the people here comfortable and happy? Are the consumer products within the purchasing power of common people? Is the law and order situation here so good that our own investors consider the atmosphere appropriate for investment? Have the government officials and bureaucracy achieved such miracles during the last one year that the "lion and the goat are drinking water at the same river bank?" Where did our own investments go? (Recently, the head of a bank revealed that the money is in the banks but there is no demand for investments.)

The whole world knows that investment requires peace, political stability, and availability of basic resources. We lack these three criteria. This is not a secret and the government itself admits it and debates on it are going on in and out of the National Assembly. The people pay taxes to the government so that it protects their life and property. Now the question why foreign investors are willing to invest in a country which lacks law and order and political stability and where even the local investors do not consider the atmosphere appropriate for investment is very important. In order to get an answer to this question first we must take a look at the principles and regulations for investment. The first fact is that the main goal of investment is to make a profit. Therefore, it is clear that foreign investors will not invest their money unless they are sure of the possibility of profits. What kind of and how much profit is possible in Pakistan that these investors are interested in? In our opinion, their major interest is to sell all those machines and equipment which they have manufactured in excess of what the market could consume. Then, they need to use the people who are needed to install and operate these machines. In addition, another major goal of these investors is their own financial gain and the good news given to the Pakistani people about the foreign cash appears to be some thing that will happen much later. Then, the news about kickbacks by the government is common. The statements issued by Dr. Mubassar Hasan, the founder of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], have been published in the newspapers often. Another fact that everyone knows is that this major investment pulls smaller investments with it. It is clear that these foreign investors are not based in Pakistan. They have to take their profits as well as the investments out with them. We have had examples of this practice in the recent past when the stock exchanges here crashed and the local people had to suffer heavy losses. Any investment whose profits can go back without any restrictions cannot benefit the local people. There is also the fact that the electric power generated by this foreign investment will be more expensive than local rates and the local industrialists will be forced to buy it. This will make their products comparatively more expensive in the international market, and thus will not be able to compete with other nations. This will end or reduce our exports. Thus, in addition to the profits of foreign investors going back with them, reduction in profits will cause total economic destruction in our country. This is the goal of foreign powers. They have recently destroyed an economic lion; the Soviet Union; destroying a country like Pakistan is nothing to them.

U.S. Said Targeting Karachi

95AS0181B Karachi JANG in Urdu 19 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Rashad Patel: "U.S. Economic Goals"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Americans reveal their plans gradually. Now they have come as far as (according to the recent U.S. State Department announcement) to say that their goal is not to make Karachi a political Hong Kong (nor are they going to do anything against Pakistan's political stability), but an economic Hong Kong. We have to see what they say about it in the future. However, we have to look at what is happening in the world around us to understand our situation.

The Cold War has ended and is being replaced by an economic war. All the U.S. Presidents until now were political (they focused on political activities). The present President is an economic president (who is busy spreading U.S. economic interests all over the world) and whose greedy eyes are focused in every direction. He is busy establishing economic trade zones in order to establish economic columns of U.S. economic empires everywhere. During the last 15 days, conferences of the heads of nations in two trade and economic zones have taken place under his leadership. [passage omitted]

Asia has the highest rate of production and economic growth where one huge economic dragon (Japan) and four smaller economic dragons (Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan) and another dragon (China) are located, and China is going to become a volcano soon (because of its economic power). Most people of these nations and other nations in this region (Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia) believe in the teaching of Confucius who emphasized discipline, respect for education, and family pride. The influence of his philosophy is present in their culture and character and because of this they are by nature loyal and hard working people. They are changing the economy of this region rapidly and the United States wants to make hay while the sun is shining here. Therefore, it has changed rules for all these countries and (in the Asia Pacific zone) wants to be their trade partner regardless of their political system or the condition of human rights and democracy there. It gave a preferential status to China last year and has taken care of all the trade disputes with Japan recently. During the Indonesia conference, Bill Clinton did not pay any head to the Portuguese living in East Timur. They were demonstrating against human rights violations committed by the Indonesian government. (Here is a hint for us that if necessary, democracy here will not be important). Bill Clinton had come here to establish trade ties with the Far East and Southeast Asian nations to enhance U.S. interests, and he returned success*ful*. The details of these ties are like this. There are 18 countries in this zone including the United States, China, and Japan. This economic zone is larger in production and trade than both the NAFTA and the European Common Market combined. This will bring 2.1 billion consumers and producers together in a regional trade market. At present the trade in this region is 50 percent of the total world trade and the goal is to change the whole region into open market and investment zone. We are getting tied to this pact indirectly as a South Asian nation because this whole region practiced restrictions on trade until now. There are only two free ports—Singapore and Hong Kong. Hong Kong will be returned to China in 1997 (and it is not possible to make any forecast about it). The problem for the United States is that it has no place in this whole region from where it could control the whole Southeast Asian trade. It is trying to make Karachi this place. It is a rich natural port and has the potential to become a gateway not only to Southeast Asia but also to the Middle East and Central Asia.

The truth is that all our political confrontations and ups and downs have been maneuvered by U.S. interests that were unacceptable to the former government which was trying to build a motorway to encourage trade with Central Asia and improve Gawadar with the Help of Japan and Korea. The United States had no interest in it. [The former government] favored Japan and Korea in the Asia Pacific zone and it was beneficial for Pakistan. All the provinces in our country would have had access to the sea and the present government has stopped it all.

The recent trade pacts with the United States should be viewed in this context. These agreements call for building infrastructure for the whole city and only communication, energy, and minerals are important to them. The Americans are not hiding anything now and are declaring openly that Karachi is necessary for them as an economic Hong Kong.

Indian Sell-Out Seen

95AS0181C Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 13 Dec 94 p 3

Article by Ibn Pakistani: "Invasion of Foreign Investment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There was a time when blocs were formed over defense. The Cold War was raging between the West and the Communist Bloc. The present era is that of economic war and nations are fighting with each other. Asia is rising as a power and has become the center of this economic warfare. After Japan, China, and Korea, foreign investments are increasing now in India and Pakistan. Compared to Pakistan, the inclination for foreign investment is higher in India. One reason for this could be that India has a huge market for the western products. In addition, Indian policy makers took some steps that resulted in a phenomenal increase in foreign investments. The Indian government presented a package for economic reforms in 1991 which has resulted in the control of Indian market by foreign investors. In 1990, the value of foreign investments in India was $72 million. Foreign investors headed for India in 1991 and the investments rose to $230 million. Of it, $169 million arrived after the July 1991 economic reforms. Foreign investments in India in 1992 were expected to be $1.4 billion and are increasing rapidly. At the end of September 1994, the total foreign investment in India was $18.6 billion. The hotel industry in India has greatly benefitted from foreign investments and the Indian hotel industry received $1.5 billion in foreign exchange. Foreign investments have increased India's information and computer technology also. In 1987, it was 5.6 billion rupees which increased to an estimated 33.2 billion rupees in 1993. Foreign investment increased 560 percent in the software area alone. The foreign investment has effected every sphere of Indian life. Changes are also taking place in the newspaper industry and television. Foreign investors are taking interest in the publication of newspapers in addition to satellite television programs. The Indian government had given extraordinary incentives to strengthen its economy. That is why foreign investors are swallowing Indian industries very fast.

Just like in Pakistan, foreign investments are being criticized in India also. Political parties and groups as well as newspapers are criticizing foreign investment and political demonstrations against it are being carried out at large scale. The opponents of foreign investment believe that it will affect Indian investments and local markets will have to face economic pressure. India's exports will be effected by foreign investment and India's own economy will become a prey to instability. Foreign interests are effecting India's internal affairs because of foreign investments. Foreign investors are interfering in internal politics more than ever. However, the Indian government has provided all kind of incentive to foreign investors and never reviewed its policies. The Indian newspapers are criticizing all this and editorials and articles are being written about it. However, the foreign nations that have invested money have the Indian government's promises to protect their investments.

The U.S. company, Ford, has decided to build a factory in India. Other companies are also making major plans. There was a time when India claimed to be non-aligned and [actually] leaned toward the Soviet Union. The Indian leaders supported the Soviet Union and enacted a Soviet Union type of structure in India. The industrial structure is the artery of India's economy now. The Russians had invested in India on easy terms and built many steel mills and power plants. Most of Indian industries are of the Soviet type. India has opened its doors to the Americans [now] with the situation changed. Western investments have rapidly bulldozed India's "non-aligned" politics and is increasing its influence very fast. By September 1994, the foreign investments in India included: 14.3 billion rupees by the *United States under 263 agreements, 5.27 billion* rupees from Germany, 3.8 billion rupees from Australia, 3.55 billion rupees from Japan, 3.53 billion rupees from Great Britain, 1.27 billion rupees from Hong Kong, and 1.04 billion rupees from the Netherlands. These are based on Indian currency. The Americans have given importance to industrial trade with India. The United States is also providing supercomputer technology that it did not want to transfer to any other country. The United States was successful in getting many favorable legal arrangements in exchange for giving this supercomputer technology. India has increased its defense capabilities using this supercomputer technology. Experts believe that India has become successful expanding its military nuclear program and missile technology using the supercomputer technology. Their collaboration in defense area is also increasing. Thus, this foreign investment in this sub-continent has forced its way first time since the East India Company. The economic committee of the Indian Cabinet has approved investment of 56 billion rupees under 65 economic agreements.

Editorial Analyzes Indian Dialogue Offer

BK2501144395 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Jan 95 p 14

[Editorial: "India's Readiness to Hold Meaningful Dialogue?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Indian foreign secretary has said that his country is ready for meaningful dialogue with Pakistan. He has also said that New Delhi is ready to discuss the two informal documents sent by Pakistan and wants to hear from Islamabad what elbow room it requires to commence the negotiations. It may be recalled that one of the informal documents sent by Pakistan relates to the finalization of the procedure for a plebiscite. While expressing his country's readiness for a discussion on these informal documents, the Indian foreign secretary also declared that India is not ready to accept any conditions for the commencement of the dialogue.

The Indian foreign secretary's statement is paradoxical because on one hand, he is expressing his country's willingness to discuss the informal documents and proposals forwarded by Pakistan, but on the other, he is rejecting Islamabad's proposals by calling them preconditions. In spite of this contradiction, the Indian official's statement Friday reflects a measure of improvement in India's previous position. His statement that New Delhi is ready for a meaningful dialogue reflects that they have now moved a bit closer to the Pakistani position, because, previously only Pakistan had been pressing for "meaningful" dialogue, while India had been supporting an abstract discussion. By insisting on a purposeful dialogue, Pakistan had meant to convey that it wants an in-depth, meaningful discussion on certain outstanding problems to achieve tangible results, which could help in the resolution of bilateral disputes. India has always rejected our suggestion for a purposeful dialogue and has insisted on Pakistan not adding any prefix or suffix to the word dialogue. Now the Indian foreign secretary has stated two new things—he has accepted that the talks should be purposeful, and has expressed his country's willingness to discuss the informal documents sent by Islamabad, even though New Delhi, according to our Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh, had previously refused to hold any discussion on these documents.

The Indian foreign secretary has also said that India objects to Pakistan's attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue. It is true that Pakistan has been and is currently raising the Kashmir issue at various international forums because it has been and is dismayed at the lack of meaningful progress in its negotiations with India. Whenever Pakistan held talks with India, New Delhi took the stand that occupied Kashmir is an integral part of India and that Pakistan should vacate the Azad Kashmir area as well. This stand hampered progress at all previous rounds of negotiations and forced Pakistan to raise the Kashmir issue at international forums.

If, according to press reports, India is now ready for purposeful negotiations and can consider giving the elbow room Pakistan requires in this regard, the Government of Pakistan should obtain the text of the Indian foreign secretary's statement and see whether his country is ready to provide any real framework—that is, different from the past—for bilateral negotiations. If the meaning and tenor of the Indian foreign secretary's statement is exactly the same as he has sought to convey, there should be no hesitation in examining the prospects for the commencement of bilateral dialogue. Unfortunately, however, India is a country which always reneges on its pledge and we have had very bitter experience in this context. Therefore, before making any decision and expressing its readiness for another round of talks with India, Islamabad should thoroughly consider and assess New Delhi's intentions and designs. Pakistan should express its readiness for talks only when it is convinced that the prospects for the commencement and conduct of a meaningful dialogue really exist. Before doing so, it would be appropriate to take certain other friendly countries into confidence, so that during negotiations, India may not find it easy to deviate—as it wants—from its new position.

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